Industrial Worker

DECEMBER 1997 #1607, vol. 94 no. 11 $1.00/75 p EDUCATION ORGANIZATION EMANCIPATION

Mersey dockers reject surrender

After more than two years on strike, the Liverpool dockers have once again confirmed their resolve to stand by union principles, voting overwhelmingly against taking £28,000 bribes to abandon the Torside dockers (who were fired for refusing unpaid overtime; the Mersey dockers were locked-out when they honored Torside dockers' picket lines) and give up the fight for all their jobs. Fewer than 75 dockers would have returned to work under the proposal. Only 329 of the nearly 500 dockers involved in the dispute were permitted to vote in the ballot ordered by TGWU officials, and only 97 of those voted to give in.

Mersey Docks & Harbour Co. responded with an announcement that it would send each docker a form to sign abandoning their jobs in exchange for the £28,000 payment.

In the midst of an exuberant picket celebrating the No vote a policewoman instructed a steward to get off the grass and stop shouting at scabs behind the perimeter fence. Fifty pickets quickly crossed the road to join their colleague and an Inspector told his junior officer to move away.

A few days later, traffic in and out of the Port of Dublin came to a standstill October 28 as Liverpool dockers blockaded the main entrance for an hour. When the Gardai arrived the dockers began to circle the roundabout, further disrupting traffic before marching to the Coastal Container terminal where many workers came out to join them and all work stopped for 30 minutes. At the Irish Ferries berth, dockers refused all work on the "Coastal Bay," a Coastal Container vessel owned by Jungerhans.

Dublin handles more Liverpool ships than any other port in the world, including frequent services on Coastal Container Line which is 100 percent owned by MDHC and also serves Belfast, Greenock and Cardiff.

Michael O'Reilly, incoming ATGWU Regional Secretary for the Republic of Ireland, said his members were "trying to show our solidarity and continue a long association with the Liverpool dispute. We are seeking the support of our colleagues from other unions in the Port of Dublin."

In Liverpool dockers are once again confronting the Operational Support Division (riot police) of Merseyside Police on the picket line. Evidently, this is Mersey Dock's response to the democratic decision

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Wobs fight Quaker union-busting

Management of Philadelphia's Friends Center, a Quaker-operated office building which houses many Quaker and progressive organizations, has begun a plunge into the depths of union-busting in order to prevent four part-time front desk staffers from organizing with the IWW. Fortunately, the unbecoming attack on workers rights has not gone unchallenged – more supporters linked to the Friends Center come forward every day to encourage recognition of the union.

The four workers, who work evenings and weekends, sometimes in shifts of more than ten hours, decided to join the IWW and seek a binding contract which would secure their job and improve working conditions. They asked for voluntary recognition from their supervisor, Peter Rittenhouse, on September 2nd. Rittenhouse asked the front desk staffers to drop the union, but passed the final decision on to the Friends Center Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors met without being able to come up with an answer to the demand for voluntary recognition. A second meeting was called for September 25th, and front desk union member Susan Phillips asked permission to attend. She explained to the Board of Directors that not only had she and her fellow workers joined a union, but that they are the union and had no reason to reconsider their position. The front desk staff are organized and want come to the table as equals with management to negotiate a fair contract. Many members of the Board of Directors asked Susan questions, and she left the meeting with the understanding that in a few days they would decide their course of action.



Wobblies are regularly leafletting the Friends Center to protest management's union-busting efforts. A half-dozen Wobs joined two front desk staffers November 9.

Strangely, on October 1st our fellow workers received a letter dated September 17 (eight days before meeting with Susan) stating, "the Board of Directors of Friends Center Corporation is saddened by the realization that some employees feel it necessary to organize themselves as part of a larger labor organization in order for their concerns to be heard and to obtain redress for grievances. As a matter of conscience and faith, we believe that no persons should need an intermediary when discussing concerns, but rather should be able to gather 'in the light' to discuss them... It is in the spirit of our belief in 'continuing revelation' that we respectfully ask that you reconsider your proposal." This response, one so unfortunately typical of employers that have turn out to be among the most notorious union-busters, was somewhat unexpected after Susan's thoughtful explanations during the September 25th meeting. While citing

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The Teamsters Election: Another Lesson in Corruption

As we go to press, a U.S. monitor has just barred Teamsters president Ron Carey from standing for re-election, finding him personally responsible for illegally funneling union funds into his campaign. This article was written before the announcement:

The continuing saga of the Teamsters epitomizes the bankruptcy of business unionism. While the recent strike at UPS gained extravagant plaudits from the liberal press, the narrow reelection of Teamster president Ron Carey has begun to come unraveled. Not only has Carey's victory been voided, with a new election scheduled for mid-March, but the new "reform" AFL-CIO leadership is in danger of going down with Carey as the ramifications of a massive scam become clearer.

It would be all too easy to minimize the reports of corruption leaking out into the mainstream press. After all, with the White House selling access like the peddlers of fake Rolexes on the streets of New York, perhaps we should expect the same shady maneuvers from union bureaucrats. But this would denigrate the many years of organizing at the rank and file level, as Teamster truck drivers who had become fed up with mobsters and their pillaging of union pension funds sought to regain some control over their union. Unfortunately, the final result of the Teamster reform movement has been to chuck one set of parasites for another smoother and more sophisticated set of wheeler dealers.

In 1976, Teamsters for a Democratic Union emerged from the consolidation of three small opposition groups, with Ken Paff, a socialist activist, as coordinator. While the situation seemed bleak, a huge bureaucracy with its own goon squad, there were some bright sides as well. The leadership's idea of defeating a rank and file opposition never went beyond physical threats and red-baiting. Furthermore, the Teamsters were under intensive scrutiny for their blatant connections to the Mafia. In addition, the deregulation of the trucking industry, one of President Carter's gifts to the working class, had crippled Teamster power and put wages and working conditions into a free fall.

All of this came to a head in July 1989, when a federal judge placed the Teamsters under trusteeship. The court appointed an elections officer to supervise the next two elections. At this point TDU confronted a critical choice. It could have opted to nominate its own slate of candidates, thereby presenting the rank and file with a genuine choice. Instead TDU decided to back Ron Carey, a local union president and a business unionist with a reputation for honesty. With its opportunistic decision to go for the quick win TDU became the junior partner in a new Teamster leadership.

Carey won with 48 percent of the vote when the Old Guard split its potential vote by backing two different candidates. Over his five-year term in office, Carey has moved cautiously on almost every front. A UPS contract from 1992 was signed without a strike, and with very little gained. When Teamsters were forced into a bitter strike by the Detroit newspaper moguls, Carey and the Teamster board did little, leaving the strikers struggling to survive. The best thing

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In This Issue...

Winning the right to strike

Education Workers Fight Cuts Around the World

Organizing Centralia

Borders Books Still Out to Crush Unions

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Intelligent Participation

The workers are rising. They understand more clearly that Big Rich ties in with Big Government as brutally as ever. Hoping for a miracle is still futile. It's Sweat, Tears and Blood all the way. And beyond the Sweat, Tears and Blood is something much more important. It's Brains. It's not enough to organize the workers at our workplace, in our town, our nation. All workers must pledge to attend union meetings, pay dues, be willing to strike, walk the picket line, maintain solidarity.

That one important matter, however, Intelligent Participation, has been neglected; worse, now, I think than in our early labor history. We need an educated membership. The early immigrants settled in their ethnic communities; and in their free time they gathered to share news, discussed, planned strategies, helped needy members. In today's isolation there is little accurate news. Big Business has it all corrupted. We don't have a broad picture of the labor battlefield and what's going on in our space. Information can come from union leaders if they are good, but poor leadership is common and lots of members fail to attend meetings.

As far as numbers go, we are many more than the Wealth/Govt. gang – the employers. But they are solid; we are pitifully divided, by ethnicity, gender, income, job, geography, etc. It's long past time for all us unionists to begin a grassroots movement for education among our members. The publications can begin. The *Industrial Worker* does a fine job, but more concentrated effort is needed, both on the state of worker ignorance and how to solve it. The AFL-CIO summer program of intensive organizing is laudable; the Civil Rights Voter Registration Drive as well. Our numbers of workers can become formidable if we know the issues, if we let our government know we are aware of what they're doing, and let the corporations understand that we will boycott their products: clothing from countries which pay low wages, food from agribusinesses which has no nourishing value or is poisoned. Maybe a door-to-door canvas of all workers.

As a longtime educator, and still going strong intellectually, I'd love to help.

Ann Morris, X346952

Readers' Soapbox

Solidarity vs. Neocolonialism

I received my first issue of the *Industrial Worker* today and was quite pleased with it, especially the international coverage given to the struggle of workers against wage slavery and the capitalist system in general.

Inasmuch as I am also a citizen of the Republic of Ghana, it pleases me to note that your directory includes an office for West African affairs. Neocolonialism is perpetuated in Africa by the imperialists through the disguise of so-called development banks and withholding recognition of the various national currencies of African states. The imperialists are doing all they can to keep Africa from uniting politically, economically and militarily so that the former colonial masters can keep a grip on their sources of cheap labor and cheap raw materials.

Now that there's an IWW in West Africa, it can shine like a beacon in the wilderness, leading the masses to hitherto unattained political consciousness to wreck the machinery of neocolonialism and establish governments of, by and for the working class.

I am also an active member of my teachers local and stand with all of you, my brothers and sisters, in "Solidarity Forever!"

Here's my check for a subscription. Like Bob Marley sings, "Don't Give Up the Fight!"

Raymond Keller

Anti-Political Sects

I would like to enquire about the IWW's position re: accepting advertisements. Does the *Industrial Worker* now accept *any* adverts from *any* anti-political sects or political parties? If the answer is "yes" I assume a variety of organisations have been informed of this fact and have been notified of advertising rates.

The reason I ask is that it would be most unfortunate if readers of the *Industrial Worker* were to assume that the IWW was an anarcho-syndicalist organisation on the basis of the rather odd advert placed in the November issue for *Libertarian Labor Re-*

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I.W.W. DIRECTORY

Job Branch= 5 or more members in workplace
GMB=General Membership Branch
IU=Industrial Union Del=Delegate
GOC= Organizing Committee.
IU 120: Lumber Workers
IU 330: Building Construction Workers
IU 450: Print & Publishing House Workers
IU 460: Food Processing Workers
IU 510: Marine Transport Workers
IU 560: Communications Workers
IU 610: Health Service Workers
IU 620: Education Workers
IU 630: Entertainment Workers
IU 640: Restaurant & Hotel Workers
IU 660: General Distribution Workers
IU 670: Public Service Workers

Industrial Worker

THE VOICE OF REVOLUTIONARY UNIONISM

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AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney Regional IWW– PO Box 241, Surrey Hills 2010

TASMANIA

Organizing Committee– Bill Bartlett, 27 Emma St,, Bracknell 7250 billbartlett@vision.net.au

BRITISH ISLES

IWW Regional Organising Committee– 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 4WB, tel no 0116-266-1835. For contacts throughout the British Isles write or phone this office.

ENGLAND

Swindon Region GMB & Research Councils IU 620 group– del: Kevin Brandstatter, 9 Omdurman Street, Swindon SN2 1HA, 01793-610707
General Distribution Workers IU660 and Bocememouth IWW– Ray Carr, Flat 2, 35 Parkwood Rd., Boscombe, Dorset BH5 2BS

SCOTLAND

Stevenson College IU 620 Branch– Rm 3.05 Bankhead Avenue, Sighthill, Edinburgh

RUSSIA

Del.– Laure Akai P.O. Box 500, Moscow 107061

CANADA

MANITOBA

Winnipeg GMB– B. Mackay, PO Box 3204, GNPO, R3C 4E7

ONTARIO

Guelph Group– 21 Nottingham St. #4, N1H 3M6
Ottawa GMB– 388 1/2 Kent, K2P 2A9. 613/231-2922 <bh295@freenet.carleton.ca>
Toronto Group– Joe Chang, 137 Roncesvalles Suite 208, M6R 2L2 416/539-0780. Meets 1st Thurs 7 pm; phone for location.

GERMANY

Del.– Daniel Zimmermann, Atroper Strasse 22, D-47226 Duisburg-Rheinhausen. 02065-56 446

WEST AFRICA

Sierra Leone–Del.: Bright Chikezi, 22 Wellington Street, Freetown. Temporary Address: c/o Ben Isaacs World Outreach, No. 25, Sule Str., Idimangoro, Off Mangoro B/Stop, Abeokuta Expressway, Agege, Lagos, Nigeria

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles GMB– Meets 2nd, 4th Sundays. For location: 213/368-4604 or 735-8648. Andrew Willett 1724 Westmoreland Blvd., LA 90006.
Mendocino– Bill Meyers, del. 707/884-1818.
San Diego Group– PO Box 907, 92112-0907.
Santa Cruz GMB– PO Box 534, 95061
IU450 New Earth Press Job Shop– 1921 Ashby Berkeley 94703 510/549-0176
San Francisco Bay Area GMB– PO Box 40485, S.F. 94140.
Berkeley office and IU 670 Berkeley Recycling Center Job Branch: 2022 Blake St., 94704, 510/845-0540. Meets Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. IU 620 Berkeley Worms: 504 Eshleman UC Berkeley 94703 510/643-0440. IU 620 File 13 Recycling Job Shop: 504 Eshleman, 510/642-4895.
San Francisco office: Redstone Building, 2940 16th St. (at Capp), #216-2, San Francisco 94103 415/863-WOBS e-mail: staff@iww.org

COLORADO

IU450 P&L Printing Job Shop– 2298 Clay, Denver 80211. 303/433-1852

GEORGIA

Metro Atlanta GMB– PO Box 80405, Chamblee 30366. 770/556-6485 (pager)

HAWAI'I

O'ahu GMB– PO Box 11928,Honolulu 96828; Mike Long, del mlong@hawaii.edu and 808/946-1271 or wilcox@uhunix.uhcc. hawaii.edu
Honaunau Group – POB 868, Honaunau 96726.

ILLINOIS

Chicago GMB– 1340 W Irving Park Road #287 60613. 312/549-5045. Meets 2nd Friday 7 pm (call for location).

KANSAS

Wichita– 1559 N Market, 67214.

KENTUCKY

Louisville– 502/451-3459

MARYLAND

Baltimore GMB– Del. Rafi Bey, PO Box 8882, 21224-0882. 410/367-3024

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston Area GMB & Education Workers IU 620– PO Box 391724, Cambridge 02139. del: Steve Kellerman 617/469-5162 Meets 2nd Sunday of each month at 5 p.m, Lucy Parsons Center, Central Square, Cambridge.
Pioneer Valley Group– PO Box 154, Northampton 01061, e-mail: pviww@iww.org del: Mike D'Amore 413/549-1143

MICHIGAN

Huron Valley GMB– 103 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti 48197. 313/483-3548
Detroit IWW– Trumbull Theatre, 4208 Trumbull 48208. 313/832-4074
IU630 Workers Stories Workers Lives Job Shop– Albert Parsons 313/769-0695

MINNESOTA

Duluth GMB– 206 W 4th St., #216, Duluth 55806 218/723-7887.
Minneapolis-St. Paul– 7315 Dupont Ave. S., Richfield 55423-3025. 612/869-4139.

MISSOURI

St. Louis GMB– c/o Bob Tibbs, Jr., 10072 Hedge Dr., St. Louis 63137. 314/868-1472

MONTANA

Butte– Mark Ross, PO Box 233, 59703. 406/782-4465

NEW JERSEY

Cape May County GMB & Building Construction Workers IU 330– c/o Richard Neill, POB 261, Cape May Court House 08210.

NEW YORK

Capital District Group– POB 74, Altamont 12009. 518/861-5627.
IU450 Coordinator– Nicholas Patti, 180 Washington Ave. #304, Albany 12210. 518/426-0528. pattin@sage.edu
Rochester– Del: Ric Garren, 716/385-6681.
NYC GMB– Del: Wade Rawluk, 5610 Netherland Ave #4D, Bronx 10471. 718/796-3671 Del: Danny Isaacs, PO Box 023525, Brooklyn 11202; 212/252-4388. Rochelle Semel, RD 1 Box 158-B, Hartwick 13348. 607/293-6489.
IU670 Socialist Party Natl Office Job Shop– 516 W. 25th St. #404, NYC 10001. 212/691-0776

NORTH CAROLINA

Asheville– BB&T Building Suite G130, Asheville 28801 704/285-9521.

OKLAHOMA

Tulsa Group– PO BOX 3212, 74101-3212.

OREGON

Eugene GMB – c/o Rick George, 1840 W. 10th Ave., 97402 email: rickg@efn.org
Portland GMB and Building Construction Workers IU 330 Branch– POB *15005, 97293-5005.* email: mmiller@orednet.org 503/650-7187

PENNSYLVANIA

Lehigh Valley GMB– POB 4133 Bethlehem 18018 610/515-0181. Del: Trish D'Amore 434-0128. <len.flank@node99.com>
Lancaster GMB: POB 796, Lancaster 17608.
Philadelphia GMB– 4722 Baltimore Ave. 19143. phillyiww@iww. org Meets on the third Sunday of every month at 4:00pm at A Space, 4722 Baltimore Ave. Del: Alexis Buss 215/724-1925

SOUTH CAROLINA

IU450 Harbinger Publications Job Shop– Merll Truesdale, del., 18 Bluff Rd. Columbia 29201.

TENNESSEE

Memphis– c/o Dennis Henke, 3461 Douglass, Memphis 38111 901/458-9907.

TEXAS

Lucy Parsons Branch– c/o Joshua Freeze, 1309 Norwalk Apt. C, Austin 78703. 512/482-9402.
Houston Group– c/o Lisa Coe, 14448 Hempstead Hwy. Box #716 77040
Rio Grande– Del.: Erik Carlos Toren, 1018 S 12th Ave., Edinburgh 78539-5606 210/381-6786

UTAH

Salt LakeBranch– POB 520514, Salt Lake City 84152-0514. 801/296-7196 slcgmb@iww.org

VERMONT

Montpelier– Bob Heald, del., PO Box 1285 05601. 802/229-1719

VIRGINIA

Richmond Group– c/o Tom Williams. 2404 Boyle Ave., Richmond 23230 804/285-3699

WASHINGTON

IU460 Fairhaven Co-op Flour Mill Job Shop– 1115 Railroad Ave. Bellingham 98225.
Industrial Transportation Project– Arthur Miller, POB 5464, Tacoma 98415-0464
Olympia– PO Box 2775, 98507. 360/753-5919.
Puget Sound GMB– P.O. Box 4814 Seattle 98104-0814 206/935-9012

WISCONSIN

IU450 Lakeside Press Job Shop– 1334 Williamson, Madison 53703 608/255-1800.
Madison GMB– c/ Lakeside Del: Jerry Chernow

WYOMING

Jackson– Teton Jack Langan, del., POB 4056, 89001. 307/733-4553

Romanies and the IWW

Within the last two weeks families of Romany people have arrived in Dover, England, fleeing persecution and physical assault in the Czech republic and Slovakia.

The persecution has included the chilling withdrawal of child benefit to Romany families in Slovakia to "curb the reproduction of socially unacceptable people."

In the last four years 17 Romany people have been murdered and in Slovakia a man was covered in petrol and burned alive.

Believing that they would find a land free of racism and persecution many Romany families came to Britain via Germany, France and Belgium to seek political asylum from the horrors of modern day Eastern Europe.

In opposition the Labour spokesperson quoted "evidence of the persecution groups like Romanies" but in Government Labour does little and threatens asylum seekers with deportation.

Dover is the centre of vicious campaign against the Romany people which is being whipped up by the *Mail,* the *Sun* and Roger Gale MP. Parents are circulating petitions calling for Romanies to be denied education and housing; the Government refuses benefits to the families of asylum seekers who appeal against refusal for asylum.

The Dover Branch of the IWW supports the rights of Romany people through the Kent Campaign for Asylum seekers, and joined in leafleting the town 25 October to counter hysterical racist media coverage.

The Campaign calls for:

Independent investigation into the root causes of refugees fleeing Eastern Europe;

An end to the imprisonment of asylum seekers (2000 of whom languish in prison awaiting appeal)

Central Government to assume responsibility for families, not hard-pressed and penniless local councils.

Negotiations under way at Libros Sin Fronteras

Negotiations continue with the owner of Libros Sin Fronteras, a Spanish-language book distributor in Olympia, Washington. The IWW won a union representation election there Sept. 2, although several workers have since gotten fed up with the boss and left. So Wobs are simultaneously lining up new members and trying to get the boss to engage in some serious talks. Instead, he spends his time writing up and harassing union supporters.

Olympia Wobs are also seeking the repeal of the state's Criminal Syndicalism laws, which attempted to outlaw the IWW in the aftermath of the Centralia massacre.

Around Our Union

IWW & organizing in Centralia, Wash.

While members of the Labor Party, trade union officials, and business owners have spent more than a year organizing support for the completion of a mural in Centralia, members of the IWW have a slightly different goal in becoming involved in the project – helping workers organize.

In November of last year, a meeting took place in Centralia with the intent of gathering financial and organization support for a mural to honor Wesley Everest, an IWW organizer who was tortured and lynched by members of the American Legion in 1919. While the IWW was never extended an official invitation from the founders of the committee, Olympia Wobblies began attending the first of the regular open meetings, which started in February of this year. Many members of the committee were outraged that the current IWW wanted a voice in a project. When 12 IWW members traveled from as far as Eugene, OR, and Seattle, WA, and attempted to introduce a resolution that the committee include members of the IWW in the project, the project broke down.

After a campaign was launched within the rank and file of the IWW to protest the undemocratic process in the meetings and ensure the IWW would have a role in its own history, a letter writing campaign was launched by Mural Committee members who opposed to the IWW presence (See September *IW*). The letters attempted to isolate the Wobblies originally most vocal about the issues, FW's Jess Grant and Arthur Miller, and to cast them as "red-baiters" and "divisive." Petitions and letters from Fellow Workers continued to the Mural Committee, and eventually a motion was adopted by the committee to install a democratic decision-making process, ensuring some voice for the IWW; unfortunately this commitment to the process appears to be wavering on the part of those who voted against it, including John Regan, Labor Party member and the owner of the building on which the mural is being painted.

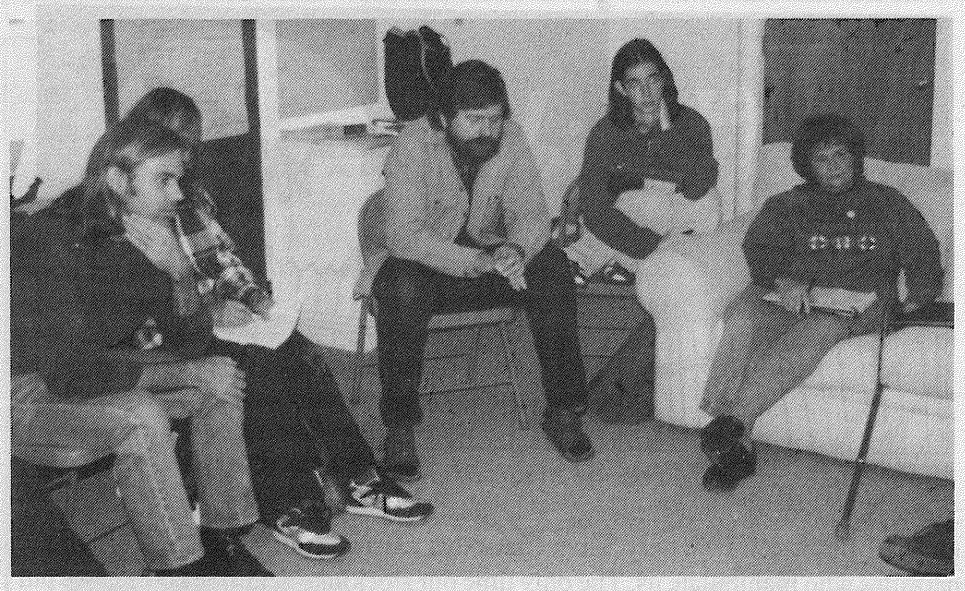
During the struggle, members of the Olympia IWW and Arthur Miller resigned from the Committee in protest of insults and threats of arrest from Committee members. Members of the Puget Sound branch continued to attempt to bring a voice into Centralia, albeit with grave reservations. A final date, after much wrangling, was decided for the ceremony for the unveiling – December 13 on a Saturday, when many residents in Centralia would be at work, to run the shops and restaraunts where labor-minded tourists would be spending their money. IWW members had wanted the date set on a Sunday, so that workers in the town would have the opportunity to participate in the event, which is supposedly designed to celebrate labor's role in the community.

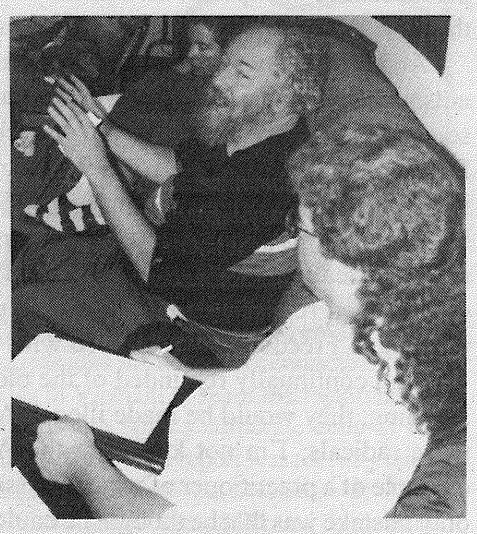
Centralia is like many other towns its size, with many large chains being built outside of town, and the prospects of a chicken processing factory brings to minds the prospect of a good job and enough to pay the rent. But not at $5.40 an hour, which is the rumored wage at the plant, which may open in the next two years.

Members of the Puget Sound IWW have been developing a campaign to organize a local in Centralia. In hopes that workers in Centralia feel in need of an organization that they can control as a community, the IWW will be leaf-letting businesses, neighborhoods, and talking with workers, in hopes of giving residents in Centralia something they can use – a real labor union that reflects their immediate needs. Fear about talking union runs rampant in Centralia, as word travels small in a small town.

But a Mural, while celebrating a long gone Fellow Worker and the role played by the IWW in the past, simply does not put food on the table, gas in the truck, pay the rent, or even go out to eat every once in a while. The IWW of today can fill this role, should workers in Centralia want to take charge of their town.

— John Persak





Northeast Regional Meeting

FW Eric Chester (R) makes a point Oct. 18 as Wobblies from upstate New York, New Hampshire, Philadelphia, Boston and Massachusetts' Pioneer Valley meet at the Pathfinder Learning Center in Amherst, Mass., to discuss regional coordination, organizing strategy, coalition work, and other issues facing the IWW. Local unionists joined us that evening for a dinner prepared by local Wobs (including a cake featuring the IWW globe in black and red frosting) and some boisterous singing of Wobbly and other songs. photos: Paul Poulos

NLRB OK's Union-busting

Without even addressing the blatant union-busting that management still continues to engage in, the NLRB dropped the IWW's unfair labor practice charge against the Keystone Job Corps Center in early November. The Labor Board conservatively interpreted the meaning of "employee" to not include Job Corps student employees, despite the fact that the Labor Management Relations Act does not allow for exclusions for protection other than for management and confidential employees.

The Labor Board cited the extremely low wages paid by the Center as evidence that Job Corps student employees are not "real" workers. This odd assertion carries with it the potential for employers trying to subvert the meager protections offered to American workers by deliberately underpaying their employees who are in training positions. Paychecks, no matter how small, are not favors that our employers grant us, they come to us because of work that we have performed.

The student employees of the Keystone Job Corps Center serve a multiplicity of roles. While part of their time is devoted to study, they also do work on the Center which is vital to its operation. Student employees in the masonry trade program construct buildings, student employees in the culinary trade cook for the cafeteria, the print trade does the printing for the Center, the painters trade does all of the painting on the center, business/clerical trade workers write computer programs, do filing, and other office work, nursing assistant trainees work in the infirmary, and so on. Every student employee must also perform janitorial duties in the dormitories. Without their work, the Center would have to employ outside contractors to do the jobs that they perform.

The NLRB's linguistic game that has robbed the young people at Job Corps of their right to organize as "employees" will not stop the IWW from making sure conditions on the Center improve. The next steps of our campaign are to carve out civil rights for Job Corps student employees and to work together to monitor conditions with social service agencies that recruit young people into the program.

— Alexis Buss

Remembering our history

The Olympia (Washington) GMB sponsored a program on The Meaning of the Massacre: Centralia 1919-2020 on Nov. 14, discussing IWW history and how it pertains to Wobbly organizing today. Labor singer Mark Ross played a Nov. 21st benefit for the TESC Student Workers Association, appearing with the hardfolk trio Centralia 19.

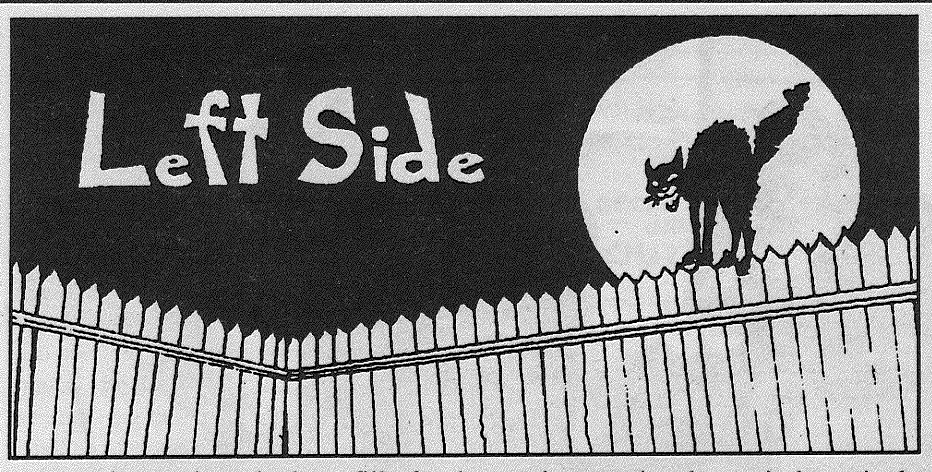
Preamble to the IWW Constitution

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life. **Between these two classes** a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interests of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system." **It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism.** The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with the capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.



Now that we have had our fill of turkey and we anxiously await the arrival of Santa Claus to fill our stockings, the greater majority of us remain blissfully unaware that we are the only Santa Claus that exists – filling the stockings of the parasites who manipulate us. The only time our stockings get filled is when we put them on to go to help make the parasites richer than they already are.

And how do these parasites get so damn rich? Bill Haywood summed it up n a nutshell when he said that for every dollar the rich man has that he didn't work for, somebody worked for a dollar they never got to see. Too many of our class here in Freedomland get all excited over who is going to be the clown in that fancy building in Washington D.C. every four years. However, the boards of directors of all the big corporations haven't changed personnel in the past few decades. These board members that we don't even get to elect are the babied who call the shots for our duly elected representatives. Those of us who do not have the good fortune of residing in Freedomland are faced with the same dilemma.

I am continually reminded of the old wag who said that if elections changed anything, they would be made illegal. Al Capone said, "Don't think I am one of these radicals; I'm not knocking the American system!" Old Al was a prime example of a practitioner of what is passed off on us of that American system. His only mistake was that he thought he could muscle in on the territory of the big-time thieves.

We constantly hear about crime on the streets and how it is not safe to venture onto those streets. Aggravating as it is, one can stay off the streets but that does not protect one from the real criminals – the one who never get on the streets but do their robbing from within the confines of their office suites where we victims never get to see them. The street criminals are sweet children by comparison. At least there is some personal contact.

Before the gentle reader says "Tut, tut...." let me assure that I have been relieved of the contents of my pocket by some street punks holding a gun in my back and that I felt the same indignation as anyone else who has been so unfairly accosted. However, when one reflects on how much is being ripped off one';s person every day by the tax collector, landlord, supermarkets, utility collectors and what have you, the street mugger is indeed a penny-ante small operator.

We are told even by conservative pundits that the crime rate increases with worsening economic conditions, and economic conditions do not seem to be getting any better. Even cops are engaging in burglary and petty crime. What can be expected of the deluded individual who has been told that to be poor is to be stupid, and that to make money is the number one thing, no matter how that money is being made. Why should we look down our noses at the likes of Capone, Dillinger or Jesse James, and at the same time look with respect up to the Rockefellers, Gettys, Vanderbilts and J.P. Morgans? After all, weren't the aforementioned personages firm practitioners of the institution of free enterprise?

So if we really want to celebrate the season of gift-giving, we should give a thought to stopping filling the stockings of our parasitic overlords and apply our footprints on their trousers instead. If we organize ourselves right, we can give them a chance of being productive of the human race.

Yes, Santa Claus, there is a Virginia!

— C.C. Redcloud

Editor's Notebook

Worried Bosses

The stock market's been jittery lately, as bosses cope with the dual problems of shaky capital markets in Asia and the booming economy here in the States. What booming economy? you ask. It's a good question. Wages are still losing ground to inflation, millions of U.S. workers are forced into part-time work either because those are the only jobs they can find or – increasingly – as second jobs as part of a desperate battle to keep food on the table, and the proportion of workers in unions continues sinking (even if IWW membership continues to climb).

Unemployment is in fact down (though millions of workers are looking for work), and if capitalism worked they way they teach in Intro Econ wages would be going up. But they're not. That's because wages aren't set by supply and demand, but by relative power. Workers aren't organized – and too many of us who are in unions are in do-nothing piecard outfits that don't scare the bosses one whit. Since we're disorganized the bosses have the upper hand, and they're using it to beat us over the head....

Welcome to Society

The "socially responsible" Citizens Trust outfit recently removed Knight Ridder from its list of approved companies. Two years after Gannet and Knight Ridder forced the Detroit newspaper workers out on strike, KR's union-busting has finally become too much for the "socially responsible" types to bear. What changed? It's simple: "Recently NLRB ruled against the company."

Looking at the many anti-labor employers on the "socially responsible" list I had naturally concluded that workers were outside of society. But it turns out I was wrong – if companies attack workers so viciously that the U.S. government tells them to stop, then the "responsible" types take notice.

Bundle up the kids

I don't have to tell those of you who live up here in the frozen north that it's getting cold out there. But the Washington, D.C., schools have come up with a unique approach to the situation. Since the schools' heaters don't work right, the city is telling parents to dress their children in layers so that they don't freeze to death at their desks...

International Solidarity

After years of criticism for turning its international affairs dept. into a surrogate for the CIA, the AFL-CIO has reorganized it as the American Center for International Labor Solidarity. But the "Solidarity Center" will continue taking money from the Agency for International Development and the National Endowment for Democracy, ensuring that AFL international operations remain adjuncts to U.S. foreign policy.

Piecards of the World Unite

Going through a pile of union papers, I was struck by the September issue of *The Dispatcher*. While the ILWU paper often features actual industrial news, this issue was entirely devoted to the president's explanation of why he is refusing to rerun the election. It appears that President Brian McWilliams was actually voted out of office, but the ILWU refused to count hundreds of ballots cast by "class B" members who pay ILWU dues and work ILWU jobs (though only after the "A" men are dispatched), but are second-class members on the job and in the union.

No one has clean hands in this dispute. The ILWU officials who now champion the "B" workers' right to vote have been collecting their dues for years without allowing them to vote in local union elections or even to speak during union meetings. The ILWU has long encouraged this system of second-class membership as it helps the officers keep tight control over the ranks. It's a disgraceful situation, reflecting that union's long tradition of authoritarian control.

And the other day I heard a member of one of the vanguard sects claiming to speak for us workers deliver an impassioned defense of Carey's right to rip off the union treasury. The piecards always know what's best for us, of course. That's why they're rich and we're poor.

— Jon Bekken

Borders workers need union

Workers at the Lincoln Park, Chicago Borders approved a UFCW-negotiated contract 29 to 8 October 1st, nearly a year to the day after they voted to join the union. While the UFCW was quick to put union security clauses and dues checkoff on the negotiating table, the issue of workers' pay was put on the back-burner, generating a little confusion at signing time. Borders insisted that they had agreed to a 3.5% pay increase per year, the UFCW said it was a 4.5% increase. Borders caved in, so workers can look forward to an extra $11 or so in their pay each week, before taxes. This pay increase was already in place as a "merit-based" raise, which was seldom denied to employees.

Workers also won the right to work 40 hours per week, as they need all the hours they can get since the average starting pay is $6.25 an hour. Borders had previously scheduled shorter work weeks to discourage overtime. Employees also received a $150 lump sum signing bonus which will be paid in February 1998, and a grievance procedure has been put into place.

Miriam Fried, who was on the IWW organizing committee while she worked at the Center City Philadelphia Borders in 1996 (until she was fired for union activity), said, "I'm disappointed by the results because it falls short of the major goals we had when working on our drive." At the foundation of most of the Borders drives is a demand for a living wage – a pay rate which most employees in retail never see. Borders management made their position clear in an April 1997 company newsletter: "If you desire an enjoyable job while you figure out what to do with your life, this is a good place to be. But if you try to make a career path out of something which can never be a well-paying job, you will be up against an impossible task because of all of the economic constraints in the retail industry."

While many workers at Borders take on second jobs to make ends meet, Borders CEO Robert DiRomualdo was paid $24 million in 1996. Modest in comparison to DiRomualdo, but still dwarfing the wages of their members, the top six International UFCW officers combined earn over $1.4 million, with huge expense accounts at their disposal. It is disgusting to ask workers who take home around $190 in pay for 40 hours' hard work to allow $35 - $40 a month in dues to be taken directly out of their pay, and then have greedy union bureaucrats live high off the hog. Miriam, who remembers the excitement that drove the organizing effort which she was a part of, says, "I hope that the workers at the other locations can maintain the solidarity and enthusiasm needed to get a good raise and that everyone remembers the power of direct action."

Between the time that workers in Chicago voted the union in and when they signed the contract, there was a 45 percent turnover, some of which was due to management's blatant antagonism towards pro-union employees. A local Chicago weekly reported in April that a worker was

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Readers' Soapbox

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view and books by Sam Dolgoff on anarchy.

Given the editor of the *Industrial Worker*'s connection with *Libertarian Labor Review* I feel that great care should be taken to make sure that the impression given to readers of the *IW* is not one where anarchist is being presented as the ideology of the IWW. Because that will not help the growth of the IWW and will only increase existing divisions.

For Industrial Unionism,

Derek Devine

Editor's Note: As FW Devine notes, the IWW is politically independent and does not ally itself with political parties or anarchist organizations, instead organizing all workers agreeing with our Preamble into One Big Union bringing together as many workers as possible at the point of production for the purposes of improving conditions and dumping the bosses off our backs. Individual members are free to join whatever organizations they choose, but the IWW vigilantly maintains its independence.

It is a long-standing tradition to accept "greeting ads" in our November and May issues. *Libertarian Labor Review* has bought such greeting ads for several years, and the ad in question was one of four published last issue. The rates and availability were published in the two preceding issues of the paper, so there can be no question of favoritism. The ad itself is quite clearly a memorial to Sam Dolgoff, a longtime IWW member and organizer, as well as an author and editor – and, as mentioned, a cofounder of the *Libertarian Labor Review*.

The membership voted last year to also open the paper more generally to suitable advertisements (a policy I opposed), and rates and other information are available upon request. Thus far only one such advertisement has been placed, for the independent 'zine, the *Pine Tree Progressive*.

SUPPORT THE WORKERS' PRESS
Give to the Sustaining Fund

We need the right to strike!

The following article is reprinted from the October 1997 *Battleground Detroit,* publication of the Action Coalition of Strikers and Supporters (ACOSS).

As with Gannett and Knight-Ridder in Detroit, employers everywhere are increasingly resorting to lockouts, production by scabs during strikes, and the permanent replacement of strikers.

Anti-labor laws like the Taft-Hartley and Landrum-Griffin Acts are unjust. They outlaw the measures we need to make strikes effective (including mass picketing, workplace occupations, secondary boycotts, solidarity strikes, and general strikes) and help shift the balance of forces in favor of the corporations.

The labor movement needs to win the right to strike by forcing the government to repeal the Taft-Hartley and Landrum-Griffin Acts and all the other anti-labor laws and to prohibit any interference in the right of workers to strike, picket or occupy our workplaces, on our own behalf or in solidarity with other workers. We need legislation that will guarantee the right to strike, and prohibit employers from hiring scabs as temporary or permanent replacement workers or operating their businesses during a strike.

One way to accomplish this is to mobilize direct action by the unions to make the anti-labor laws unenforceable, particularly organizing political strikes as necessary to back off the government.

Corporate attacks on workers

Corporations like Gannett and Knight-Ridder have tried to maintain their profitability by automating, speeding up and laying off workers in the industrial centers, gutting health, education and social welfare programs, attacking the legal rights and social position of women, racial and national minorities, and immigrants, and shifting production to low-wage regions like the southern US and low-wage countries like Mexico, Brazil, Nigeria, the Philippines, South Korea and China, where repressive governments often add to the "favorable business environment."

A central problem for the labor movement is that the corporations have again made strikebreaking and union-busting key elements of their strategy, not only in poor countries and regions, where this has always been the case, but also in the industrial centers. Driven by their own competition and taking advantage of the competition among workers, the corporations increasingly are trying to crush all resistance.

In the U.S., the corporations, with government support, more and more often reply to strike threats with lockouts and to strikes with continued production by scabs and the permanent replacement of strikers. From PATCO to Hormel to the Decatur "war zone" of Staley, Firestone and Caterpillar to the Detroit newspapers, strikebreaking and union-busting are becoming the norm for U.S. labor relations.

Militant tactics still can win

There are exceptions to this pattern. Where workers are able to stop highly profitable production, even a very large corporation may decide that a lockout or strike is not worth the cost, as in the recent UPS strike and the UAW strikes at GM and Chrysler. But in most cases, if the corporation is big enough and determined enough, the traditional strategy of withholding labor in a particular bargaining unit, even supplemented by a consumer boycott or "corporate campaign," is not enough to win.

The labor movement is still quite strong, however. Key components of industry are still organized, and the unions have tactics that can win against even the biggest, most determined employers. These are the tactics that built the industrial unions in the 1930s and 1940s: mass picketing, workplace occupations, secondary boycotts, solidarity strikes and general strikes to back off the government when it tries to interfere.

If the Staley workers had been able to stop the scabs with mass picketing, occupy the Decatur plant, threaten Tate & Lyle with secondary boycotts and solidarity strikes at all its operations worldwide, and block government interference with the threat of escalating general strikes, they would have won within 72 hours. The same applies to the Detroit Newspaper strike.

Not surprisingly, all these tactics are illegal. Having been forced to make major concessions to the unions in the 1930s, reflected in the 1932 Norris-LaGuardia Act and the 1935 Wagner Act, the employers moved as soon as they could to outlaw the unions' most potent weapons. The 1947 Taft-Hartley Act and the 1959 Landrum-Griffin Act codified their key victories, supplemented since then by a stream of court decisions, administrative rulings, and arbitration awards tracing the labor

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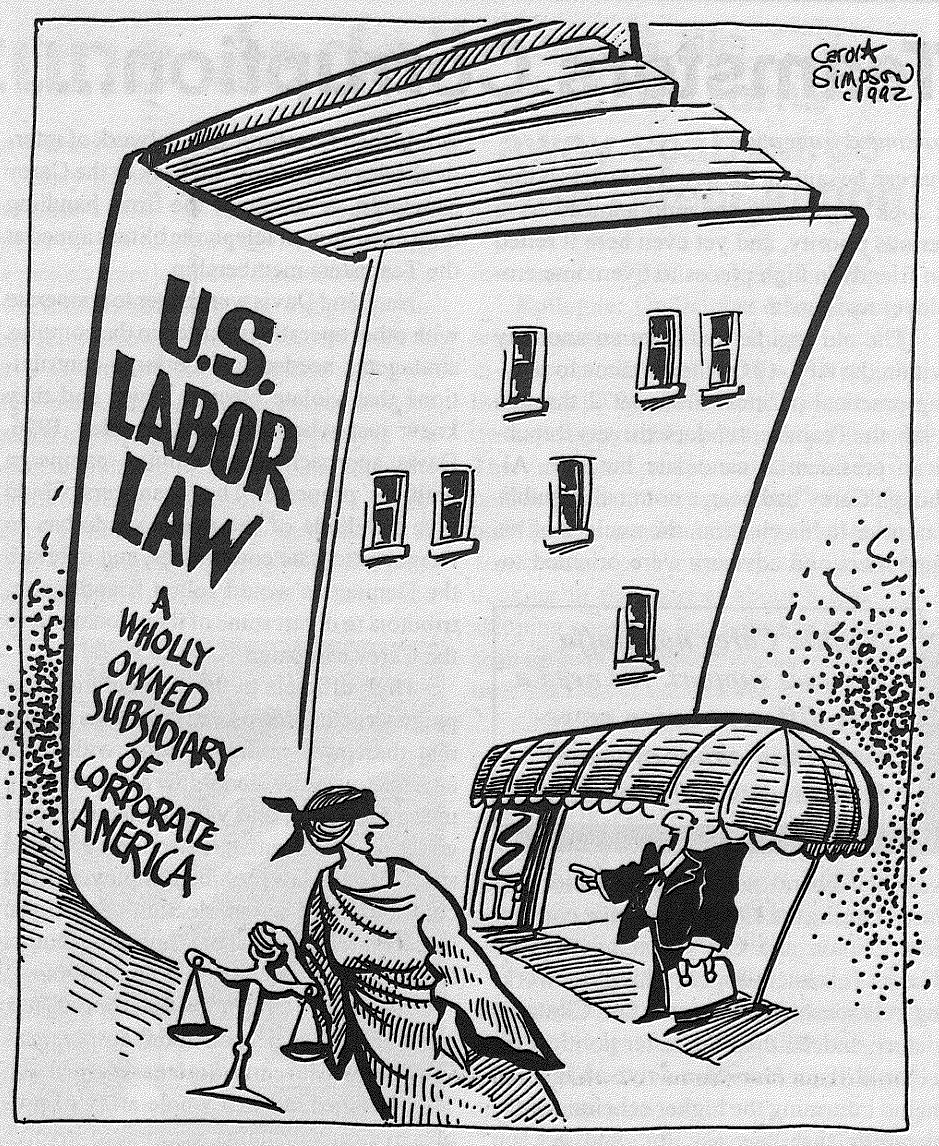
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Free Distribution Outside the Mail	238	26
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Total Distribution	4,459	4,391
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I certify that all information on this form is true and complete.
Jon Bekken, Editor; Nov. 1, 1997



"Nothing personal...
But you just don't fit in here."

As the bosses see it...

I happened to pick up a copy of the November *Personnel Journal* that my boss was throwing out. The headline stated, "Low Unemployment Is Causing a Staffing Drought." This piqued my interest, since it implied that bossesaround the country were desperate and might start resorting to "radical" measures such as raising wages, increasing time off, offering shorter work weeks/days, on-the-job democracy, paid education benefits, etc. to attract workers. Maybe we'd get that 4-hour-day/4-day-week with no cut in pay sooner than we expected!

No such luck! The cover story, disappointingly suggested making do with less-skilled workers, referral bonuses, increasing overtime for existing employees, and something called "increasing the excitement" of the job. A sidebar entitled "What's the best way to get employees to think and act like owners of the business?" attracted my attention: the title says it all! What bosses want (and usually get in this country) is employees who don't realize they belong to the working class. The fact that they are raising this question at all may be a sign that some of us are stepping out of our mental cages and need to be lured back in.

NPR carried a story about Boeing employees in Washington state who have been working 60-70 hour weeks for months. The report never questioned the company's "need" to wear out workers in the interest of outrageous profits, but it talked about earlier bouts of overtime that had led to more than half of the workers' marriages going bust, about company-paid mental health counseling (where do they get the time off work to go to a shrink anyway?), and the lure of double-time for overtime. What makes these workers keep at it? The money can't fully explain it. What makes us wreck our bodies and minds rather than show weakness before peers?

— Jim Giddings

The New Improved Moon

No longer will the moon be wasted on young lovers if advertisers Gary Betts and Malcolm Green have their way. The two London ad execs have announced plans to turn the moon into a giant billboard. After consulting with NASA scientists, the two believe they have a feasible plan for projecting corporate logos onto the moon's surface using reflected sunlight from two large umbrella shaped mirrors. In the scientific community, the major debate seems to be over how and not whether to project brand names onto the moon. French scientists have reportedly come up with a cheaper way to get corporate logos into space using reflecting satellites. Meanwhile, the news agency Reuters treats this as a promotion for the moon, adding that now "the moon could be more than just a part of the solar system."

— American Newspeak

from the desk of...

General Secretary-Treasurer Fred Chase was busy issuing ballots at press time, and could not write his usual column. It will resume next issue.

Industrial Worker Sustaining Fund

Robert Krzewinski, Ypsilanti MI	$35
William Johansen, San Francisco CA	10
Tom Johnson, Newmarket NH	15
Dennis Henke, Memphis TN	10
Rogerio Lima, Porto Alegre Brazil	15
Portland IWW, Portland OR	40
Joseph Amster, Valley Cottage NY	5
Don Dziubeck, Southington CT	20
Walter Hooke, Cambridge NY	15
Anonymous, Northampton MA (in memory of an anonymous contract wage slave)	250
Ron Lybarger, Plymouth OH	10

Charlie Sato Memorial Fund

Steve Eabry, San Luis Obispo CA	20

Utah Phillips Solidarity Fund

Steve Eabry, San Luis Obispo CA	20
Mike Walsh, Springfield IL	25
Anonymous, Northampton MA	50

Teamsters Corruption...

continued from page 1

that can be said for the new Teamsters is that it took organizing the unorganized as a serious priority, and yet even here it relied on friends in high places to overcome employer resistance.

The old regime had been an anomaly within the AFL-CIO when it came to playing practical politics. From 1972 through 1988, the Teamsters endorsed every Republican presidential candidate but one. Although Carey had been a nominal Republican prior to his election, the nucleus of his supporters and advisors were oriented toward the liberal wing of the Democratic Party. During the 1992 Democratic convention, Clinton and Carey met privately to discuss Teamster support. This close working relationship deepened after Clinton's victory. Indeed then Teamster political director William Hamilton wrote an internal memo informing the higher echelons of the hierarchy that "we ask for, and get, on almost a daily basis, help from the Clinton administration for one thing or another."

> ***Neither Carey nor Hoffa deserves support. We need a very different union movement than either of these bureaucrats will promote...***

In the spring of 1996, after more than four years in office, the new Teamsters leadership was confronted with another election. This time the Old Guard united around James Hoffa, an obscure lawyer with virtually no track record, but one very important asset, his father's name. That spring, Carey's advisors were stunned to discover that Hoffa had a very real chance of winning. Carey had failed to deliver, and the rank and file knew it. Furthermore, Hoffa was garnering large contributions.

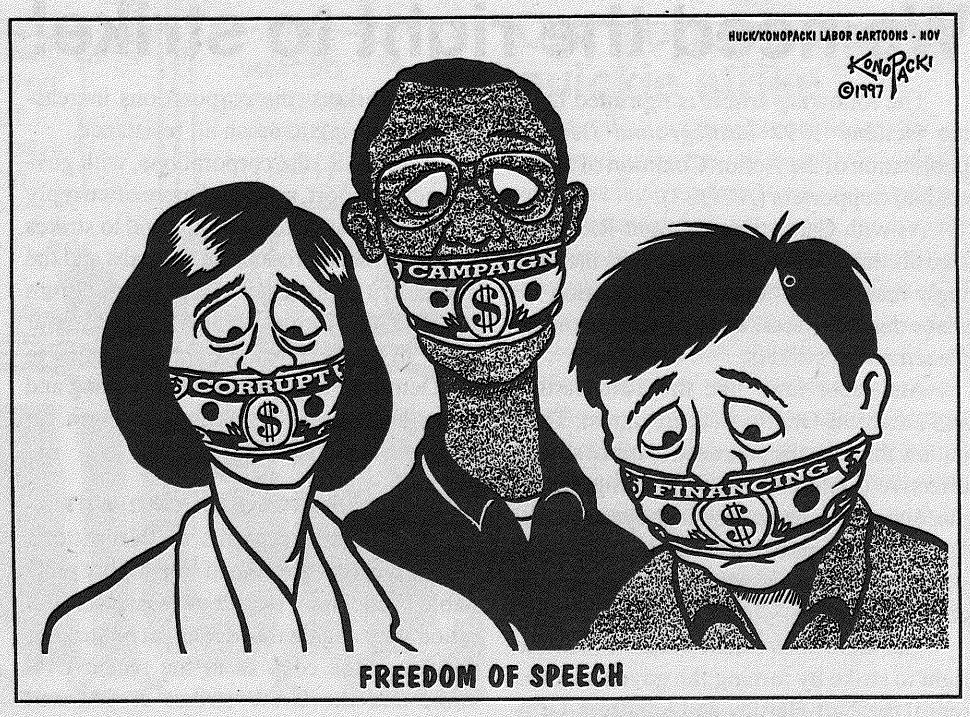
Confronted with a crisis, the Carey camp responded with yet another maneuver. Carey's campaign manager, Jere Nash, worked with Martin Davis, a political consultant who had been acting as liaison with the Democratic National Committee, to devise a plan to funnel large sums of money from the Teamsters treasury into the coffers of the Carey reelection campaign. To hide the true source of the funds, Nash and Davis decided to arrange a series of swaps, creating paper trails showing funds moving from the Teamsters to worthy causes. The money would then flow through a network of intermediaries before flowing back to the Carey campaign, or to one of the firms handling direct mailings or telephone blitzes aimed at the Teamsters membership.

Nash and Davis were eager to cooperate with other operatives skilled in the complex stratagems needed to hide large contributions that violate election laws, and they knew just where to look. In May 1996, Davis approached the Clinton campaign with his proposal. The Teamsters would give hundreds of thousands of dollars to Democratic state committees, and in return the Democrats would solicit friendly contributors to divert some of their donations to the Carey campaign.

High officials in the Democratic campaign structure have been quoted as saying that there was nothing wrong with them advising wealthy donors to aid a friendly union president, and yet the election rules governing the Teamsters election were quite strict. Federal law prohibits employers from contributing to union election campaigns. Needless to say, most big time contributors to the Democratic Party are employers.

As the Dec, 10 election date approached, Nash and Davis became more desperate as Carey's defeat seemed increasingly likely. They reached out to a whole array of progressive organizations, seeking to involve them in swap schemes. The AFL-CIO leadership joined in, with a significant portion of a huge contribution from the Teamsters to Citizens Action, a consumer advocacy group interested in electing a Democratic majority in Congress, passing through the office of Richard Trumka, secretary-treasurer of the AFL. In addition, Trumka and other high AFL-CIO leaders are reported to have provided bags of cash to Carey campaign aides. Union leaders have the power to hire and fire, and thus are categorized as employers under the federal law covering contributions to union campaigns.

As this whole sordid mess has unfolded, Carey has steadfastly maintained that he knew nothing. Indeed he has gone so far as to say that if there is "a victim, I certainly am the victim." So far three people, including Nash and Davis, have detailed their involvement to a federal grand jury. Nash and Davis have made it clear that Carey was a knowing participant. Carey's own personal secretary has said that Carey personally approved the $475,000 contribution to Citizens Action. Carey's denials have all of the credibility of the czar's protestations in olden days. The Little Father was so busy watching out for the interests of the poor and downtrodden that he was unable to keep track of the misdeeds of his advisors.



Ultimately, it would appear that the scheme moved more than a million dollars of Teamster funds to third parties, with most of this returning to the Carey campaign. By the end of the campaign, Carey had reported spending more than $3 million, with more than one million of this total listed as coming from anonymous sources. Hoffa raised about the same amount, with $1.8 million coming from unidentified donations.

The Hoffa camp engaged in its own efforts at unethical, and perhaps illegal, efforts to raise money. Bob Wages, the president of the Oil and Chemical Workers, has stated that he was approached by a Hoffa aide, with Hoffa present, and asked to get behind the winning candidate, or risk Teamsters members crossing Oil and Chemical picket lines. When Wages asked for more details, the aide urged him to solicit firms with union contracts for contributions to the Hoffa campaign.

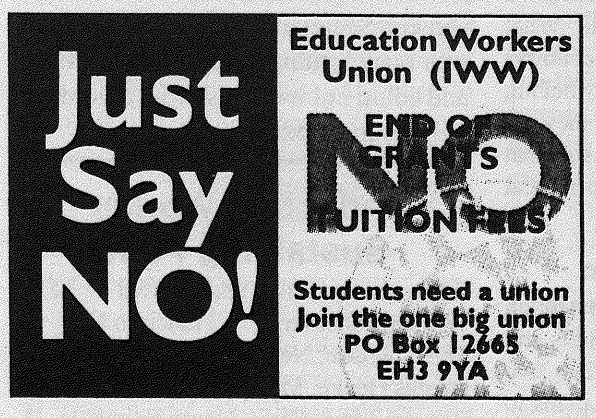
The Teamsters election became a microcosm of the last presidential campaign. With Carey tied to the Clinton forces, and the Old Guard looking to the Republicans, the same corrupt practices were in full swing, as both sides searched for friendly corporate contributors. All of this would be depressing enough without the vocal presence of TDU. This supposed caucus of union militants has given Carey uncritical support throughout the entire debacle.

Battered by the election scandal, Carey supporters have extolled the recent UPS strike as a milestone, the first large step in the creation of a new and revitalized trade union movement. Certainly the 15-day strike marked a significant improvement over decades of quietly accepting one concession-filled contract after another. Nevertheless, the Teamster leadership was never prepared to shut UPS down for a lengthy strike. Instead, it relied on the Clinton White House to cajole UPS from hiring scabs for long enough to disrupt deliveries to the point where the corporation retreated from most of its demands for further givebacks.

The resulting contract was not a disaster, but it was also far from a major victory. For instance, current part-timers, 60 percent of the UPS workforce, received sizable pay increases. Yet with rapid turnover and a five-year contract, the true cost of the contract hinges on the starting wage rate for part-time workers. For 15 years, and this includes the last contract signed by Carey, this rate had been stuck at $8.00. The new contract raises this rate to $8.50. A fifty cent increase represents a total gain of 6 percent over five years. Thus, the real wage of a new part-time UPS worker, allowing for inflation, will continue to fall throughout the life of this contract. This hardly represents a momentous victory.

Neither Carey nor Hoffa deserves our support. We need a very different union movement than either of these bureaucrats will promote. We also need to build opposition caucuses that stand for more than an end to wholesale corruption and the direct election of union officers. As TDU so dramatically demonstrates, without a firm commitment to a radical program, reform caucuses can deteriorate into mere apologists for the more liberal wing of the union bureaucracy. We need to project a vision of a union movement that will mobilize across industries for militant actions that can win future confrontations such as the Detroit newspaper strike. We also need to say loudly and clearly that as long as unions continue to rely on their influence with political bosses working people will continue to see their living standards spiral downward.

— Eric Chester



Wobbly Edinburgh

IWW Education Workers in Edinburgh have designed a series of silent agitators for local stickering. They address cutbacks in government funding (still an issue with Labour in power), cutbacks in student grants, and lay-offs of education workers. Direct Action through One Big Union is the answer. Just Say No to cutbacks.

UMass TAs in fight

The Graduate Employee Organization at UMass Amherst represents about 2,500 employees: teaching assistants, research assistants, and other graduate student employees at the university. GEO was organized in 1989 and has negotiated two contracts with the administration; for the last 21 months they have been negotiating for a new contract to replace the one which expired 15 months ago. The main issues are: Wages – by the University's own study, which compared average salary at U Mass with minimum salary at a dozen other schools, UMass GSEs were second from the bottom. Health care – GEO wants access to the state's health plan, like other workers. Educational access – GEO is demanding specific measures to address the abysmal recruitment and retention of students from underrepresented groups. Child care.

Administrators made their first wage proposal in September, after 19 months of talks. The union has begun a series of departmental delegations visiting the administration offices, and a two-day action where classes focussed on labor issues.

Clericals dump AFSCME

Clerical employees at the University of California systemwide have voted to replace the union that has represented them for 14 years with a new, independent union. The Coalition of University Employees won 63 percent of the vote – the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees received just 21 percent of votes cast. The bargaining unit of 18,000 clerical workers is among the largest public sector bargaining units in California. Nearly 6,400 ballots were cast.

"This is truly an historic vote," said Elinor Levine, president of CUE. "It's all the more remarkable because we were up against an anti-union employer with deep pockets and one of the largest unions in the AFL-CIO." According to Linda Salas, CUE activist at UC Irvine, "The first thing we intend to do is bargain a new contract with UC. But our larger goal is to get people involved and make the union a reality in people's day-to-day lives. What we're trying to do here is build a union from the ground up – the way it should be done."

AFSCME's 1983 win culminated many years of grassroots activism by U.C. workers. But AFSCME promptly dismantled its network of campus locals, dividing workers into a jigsaw patchwork of unaccountable craft units.

Exposing corporate takeovers

Educational institutions face strong pressure from capital and fundamentalist religion to give up any popular control over curricula and structure. An analysis of education in this context is now available in a newly revised book called *Uncovering the Right on Campus* just released by the U.S.-based Center for Campus Organizing.

The report includes details of how corporate funding influences educational production and expression, as well as facts about the state's simultaneous attack on education through funding cutbacks . The 134-page book is available for $10 from CCO, P.O. Box 748, Cambridge MA 02142. cco@igc.org http://www.cco.org

The Saga of the "Neptune Jade"

Looking back, it is most ironic that I had just sent an e-mail message to another Wobbly requesting that he keep us updated about direct actions in solidarity with the Liverpool Dockers. Less than a day later, the Berkeley IWW received a call for help in manning solidarity pickets Sunday, Sept. 28, at 5 p.m. in Oakland, California. The picket was called by the San Francisco Bay Area branch of the International Committee for Victory to the Liverpool Dockers, a united-front group of unionists and social and community activist. Their plan was to picket the "Neptune Jade," a ship carrying containers loaded by scab workers in Thamesport, England. The occasion? The date marked the second anniversary of the struggle of the Liverpool Dockers. Our hope was that this action would bolster them as much as they have inspired us.

But either luck was against us or the bosses got wind of our plans, because we soon found out that the "Neptune Jade" would be arriving early in the morning Sunday. A phone call to IBU member Robert Irminger near midnight Saturday urged that the pickets go forward next morning.

Sure enough, next morning about two dozen pickets arrived at Berth 23 in Oakland. Many of these pickets were Wobs. Our spirited pickets were augmented in the port by the presence of a certain tugboat, also operated by resourceful Wobblies. Two times that day, a coalition of unionists – from the Inland Boatmen's Union, Sailors Union of the Pacific, Operating Engineers Local 3, IBEW, HERE Local 2850, UFCW Local 101, ILWU Local 6, Sign and Display Workers Local 510, the Peace & Freedom Party, the Labor Party, the Committees of Correspondence, COPWATCH, the International Bolshevik Tendency, the Laney College Labor Studies Club, the Berkeley and San Francisco IWW and others – convinced arbitrator Jerry Sutliff that a hazard existed to the safety of workers from ILWU Locals 10 and 34. Both times longshoremen refused to cross the picket line. No cargo was unloaded.

Monday morning, the pickets returned. The company went to the state court to get a Temporary Restraining Order against mass picketing at the docks. If successful we would have only been legally entitled to a small, ineffective picket and the scab cargo would have been unloaded. Due to the skill of committee attorney Trish McCormick, the judge refused to issue a TRO. Our pickets turned away the morning shift. Meanwhile, an observant Fellow Worker at sea kept us informed about the scene from his perspective. He informed us that the "Neptune Jade" was to set sail for 1 p.m. that afternoon. His final words read, "Keep the ship there till I get in from sea so I can get a piece of it! Roar Kitty, Roar!"

But the ship didn't leave. She was still docked at Berth 23 Monday afternoon, and the pickets were still holding the fort at Maritime and Pier Streets in west Oakland when I arrived that evening. Once again, Wobbly presence on the picket line was very strong. In the middle of Maritime, a line of container trucks, at least ten long, was backed up. The Teamsters were honoring the picket line; so were the non-unionized truckers. No cargo was unloaded, and our resolve held into the night. The latest news was that the "Neptune Jade" had been ordered to leave port at midnight that night, unloaded or not. Once again, the rank & file workers of ILWU Locals 10 and 34 refused to cross the picket line. Four shifts had come and gone and not a single container had been unloaded.

As we picketed, Irminger informed us of the situation in Great Britain: Kent police had entered the Port of Sheerness seeking to evict Liverpool dockers and their supporters who had occupied cranes as a vessel was due to arrive. Outside the gate, 70 dockers and several hundred supporters were picketing in the face of a massive police presence including special tactical squads.

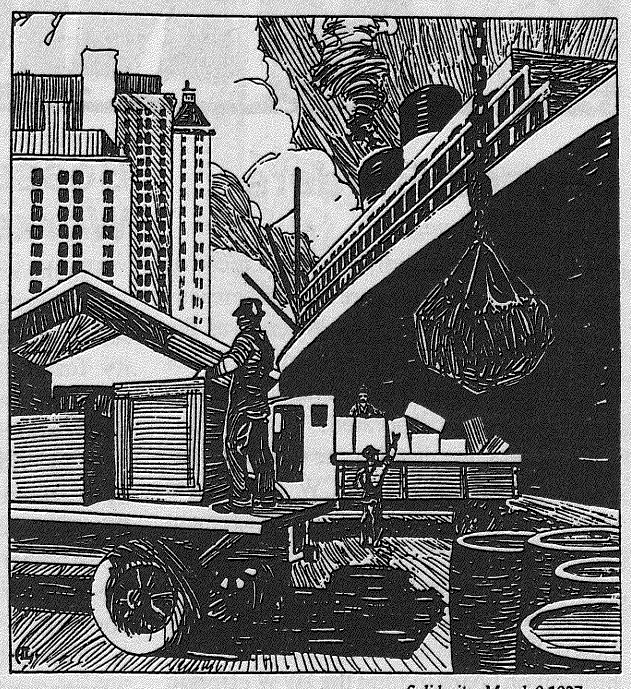
TGWU auto transport drivers employed by Axial were refusing to bring car imports out through the picket line, and had left the port in a fleet of transporters empty handed. Drivers from a second firm, Walons, had refused to enter the port.

Sheerness had been targeted on the second anniversary of the Liverpool lockout because the port is 100 percent owned by Mersey Docks and Harbour Company. The deputy manager of the fruit terminal acknowledged that actions were being taken in South Africa against exports to Sheerness, which he found "very disturbing."

Meanwhile, 20 members of Reclaim the Streets (a group of radical environmentalists including various Earth First! groups) occupied the roof of the Department of Trade and Industry in London in solidarity with the dockers, while 50 others entered the building. With two helicopters circling overhead and a massive police presence on the ground, all traffic was blocked off.

Back in Oakland we prepared to celebrate our victory. Champagne corks popped as the ship sailed away. But despite our jubilation, another contact at sea gave us a reality check late that night. The "Neptune Jade" had not sailed. Rather, she shifted to anchorage in the San Francisco Bay to clear the berth for another ship, the "Chesapeake Bay." The Jade would return to Berth 23 Tuesday afternoon. We would have to stand our ground once again.

Early in the morning pickets arrived, and once again, the "Neptune Jade" was held at bay for an entire day. That evening, the pickets were joined by former California Governor-turned-"We the People"-radio host Jerry Brown. The employers tried to serve us with a TRO, but no one acknowledged them. Wild-eyed process servers proceeded to litter the street with papers. The pickets continued on until 9 p.m. when the arbitrator ruled yet again that we represented a "health and safety risk" to rank & file ILWU longshoremen and marine clerks. Six shifts had come and gone. No cargo had yet been unloaded. ILWU estimates suggest that the employers lost close to $3 million in lost production time and legal fees.



Solidarity, March 9 1927

The ship finally sailed away, but this time we took no chances. Pickets maintained a silent vigil all night in four-hour shifts. A retired Longshoreman continually contacted Marine Transport to track the "Neptune Jade," in case she returned at 2 a.m. (when the employers could call the ILWU Local 10 hiring hall to dispatch a gang to unload her). Word was that this time she was now anchored four miles north of the SF sea buoy, well outside the San Francisco Bay. This is a transient anchorage, usually used by tankers cleaning tanks, ships with captains too cheap to pay for launches for the crew, or vessels awaiting berths. An e-mail message from a MTWIU 510 Fellow Worker confirmed this and suggested that another ship, the "California Pegasus" was due in to Oakland Berth 23 at 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, and due to sail around Midnight. Earlier that day, representatives of the ship owners swore under penalty of perjury in court that the "Neptune Jade" wasn't coming back to California.

This news was confirmed next day. The "Neptune Jade" would sail to either Vancouver, BC, or Yokahama, Japan. Pickets were present at Berth 23 all that day just in case. By that afternoon, it was clear that the Jade would not return to Oakland anytime soon. The Liverpool Dockers Victory Committee – now expanded to include all the groups who had contributed to the victorious action – had made history for the labor movement and the Liverpool dockers.

Epilogue: On October 4th we received word that the members of ILWU Local 500 in Vancouver had refused to cross a picket line set up by approximately 20 members of the Liverpool Dockers Solidarity Network. The Vancouver pickets were alerted the day before that the "Neptune Jade," which had been unable to unload its cargo in Oakland, was headed for Vancouver and would be docking in that port at about 8 a.m. The shipping company had hoped to unload its scab cargo in Vancouver and have it shipped over the road to the San Francisco area.

Confronted with yet another militant picket line and the refusal of the Canadian longshore workers to cross and break the solidarity that had been forged in Oakland, the company apparently decided to cut its losses, ordering the "Neptune Jade" to set sail immediately for Yokahama, Japan, after only five hours of picketing.

But, when the "Neptune Jade" reached Japan, she had yet another nasty surprise waiting for her! The All-Japan Dockworkers' Union refused to handle containers loaded at Thamesport.

Apparently, the seven scab containers loaded in Thamesport contain … fertilizer.

Although we won this battle, the war is not over yet. Many of the participants in the Oakland picket are facing major legal hassles. A lawsuit has been filed alleging an extortionate conspiracy on the part of the pickets, and asking the court to award unspecified monetary damages (up to, or possibly exceeding, $3 million). We whipped their ass on the streets and we'll probably whip their ass in the courts.

What we have now on our hands is a free speech fight reminiscent of the historical IWW struggles immediately after their strike victories during the first third of this century. It seems likely that the employers don't have much of a case, due to a small factor known as the First Amendment. Our picket at no time prevented trucks from entering or leaving the facility; at no time did pickets touch any of the employers' goons; and at no time did any pickets touch any of the cargo. Meanwhile, the company has charged one of our picket captains, FW Irminger, with contempt of court.

Fellow Workers, you can help us withstand these legal challenges and help turn the tide in this ongoing battle to reinstate the 500 sacked Liverpool Dockers. Form and mobilize a General Defense Committee in your branch or local. Let us know when you're ready, and we'll send you literature to distribute to other unions and community groups.

The Berkeley IWW also has MTWIU 510 assessment stamps for $5 each; all proceeds currently go to fund this ongoing struggle. Send your voluntary contributions to the "Liverpool Solidarity Project," c/o Berkeley IWW, 2022 Blake Street, Berkeley CA 94704. Also, your shop, branch or local can officially endorse the campaign to reinstate the Liverpool Dockers. Get in touch with us in the East Bay, and we'll forward to information to you as it becomes available.

Victory to the Liverpool Dockers!

— By the Berkeley IWW and Fellow Workers; edited by FW X344543

No surrender...

continued from page 1

of sacked dockers to reject their "final offer." Rather than open negotiations, they have called on the authorities and the media to back up their claim that the dispute is now "over." OSD officers prevented picketing of one gate 12 November to enable traffic to enter. Pickets succeeded in closing off the other two main entrances to the Port of Liverpool.

In Oakland, California, where pickets repeatedly blocked efforts to unload scab cargo from the Neptune Jade, loaded in MDHC-operated Thamesport, in October, employers are dragging identified picketers into court on charges of violating a court injunction barring effective solidarity actions. The bosses are also suing for economic damages.

On Oct. 28 the San Francisco Labor Council unanimously adoped a resolution reasserting their support of the Liberpool dockers, and "defending workers rights to picket and exercise their first amendment rights to speech and freedom of association." The resolution condemned the Pacific Maritime Association's lawsuit for damages and an injunction as an effort to intimidate workers and urged contributions to the legal defense of the pickets, at the Liverpool Dockers Victory Defense Committee, P.O. Box 2574, Oakland CA 94614.

When the Neptune Jade arrived in Yokohama October 15, dockers refused to unloadthe seven containers which had been loaded in Thamesport and were supposed to be unloaded in Oakland. But about 200 other containers were loaded and unloaded in Yokohama. Two days later Kobe dockers also resued to unload the containers.

Seattle GDC Supports Mersey Dockers

The General Defense Committee in Seattle passed a resolution in support of the locked-out Mersey Dockers in Thamesport, and is collectiong solidarity donations from union locals in Seattle. Fellow workers who also want to contribute to the fund, please send checks or money orders to: Puget Sound IWW, POB 4814, Seattle WA 98104

Rank & file coalition turns away scab cargo with Direct Action

Bargain, NLRB tells Avondale

The National Labor Relations Board has ordered Avondale Industries Inc. to bargain with the New Orleans Metal Trades Department, which won the right to represent the company's 5,000 shipyard workers in an election in June 1993.

U.S. rounds-up migrant workers

The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service detained almost 30 workers Nov. 6 from a New York City garment factory for lack of documentation.

The Coalition for the Human Rights of Immigrants said that "the repression of immigrants is intended to keep undocumented workers from organizing... workers who fear deportation are less likely to complain about or organize against employer violations... Sometimes contractors themselves call the INS to "disappear" their workers, to avoid paying back wages or to thwart an organizing drive."

Protests can be mailed to the INS at 26 Federal Plaza, New York NY 10278 or telephoned to them at 1-800-375-5283.

Organizing Temps

The Oct, 14 *Wall Street Journal* reports that temp bosses are getting worried by union organizing efforts. At its recent national convention, the National Association of Temporary and Staffing Services launched a campaign to mobilize against any move by the National Labor Relations Board to allow unions to organize temporary workers. The NLRB is considering changing a rule that prohibits temps, whose assignments can run for months, from joining a company's bargaining unit without first getting consent from both the company and the agency that sent them.

Scab bosses die

Two supervisors at a pulp mill in British Columbia died in October from suffocation while inspecting workplace conditions while workers continued a three-month strike truck outside the plant for a safer workplace.

"This is exactly what we're fighting over," said one worker. The strike is partially against "full flexibility" involving workers quickly switching tasks and often endangering themselves.

Wildcat longshore strike

A 900-foot-long container ship left Boston harbor Nov. 14 with its cargo still on board after 45 members of the International Longshoremen's Association walked off the job at 10 p.m., refusing to work the ship unless they were paid for four hours they waited for the ship to make it to the dock.

NY workfare goes union?

Slightly less than half the 35,000 workfare participants in New York City have voted in favor of union representation. 17,000 people voted to unionize, while 300 voted against. The votes were cast over four days at 250 polling sites. The city refuses to negotiate with the workers.

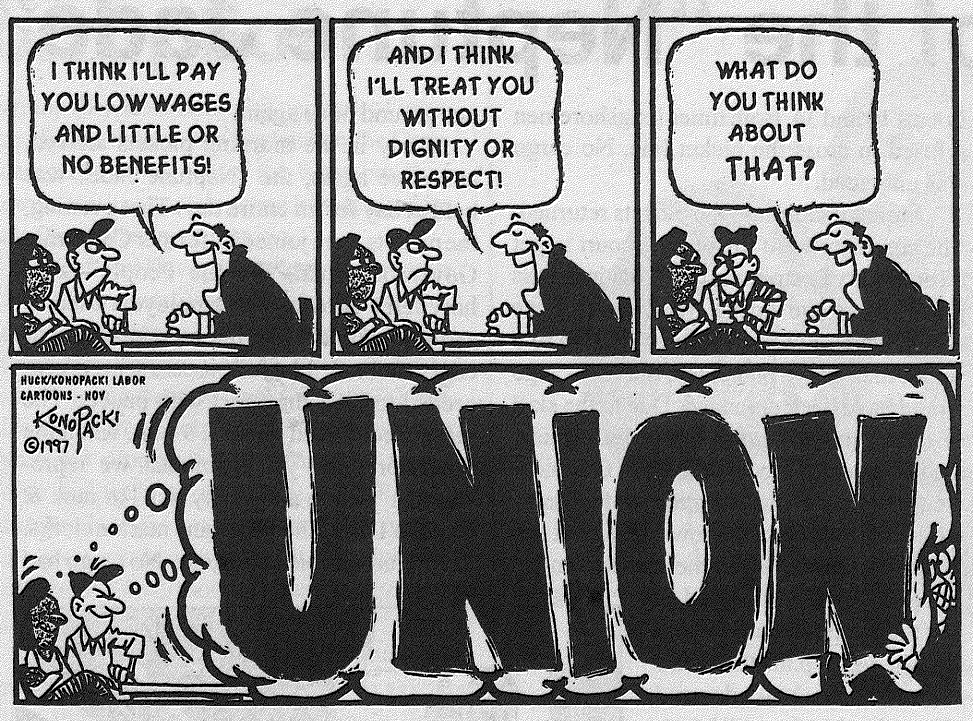
Participants typically work 20 hours a week in jobs like street cleaning and mopping hospital floors in exchange for $100 in welfare benefits. Workers complain about not receiving the proper equipment. "There are some ladies who work outdoors with no bathroom facilities," said Sheila Duncan, 48, of Harlem, who has received workfare for about a year, since being laid off as a staff analyst at a bus service.

Piecards deny pornographic actor union card

Actor Dalny Marga Valdes is bringing the Screen Actors Guild to the National Labor Relations Board for rejecting her application for union membership based on her work in pornographic films.

The prevailing wage for sex workers in the film industry is $300 to $1,200 per month, according to Valdes, and Screen Actors Guild workers earn $5,000 just for appearing naked once.

The Screen Actors Guild has shunned sex work actors since the 1970s.



Boycott Borders

continued from page 4

terminated for allegedly stealing a piece of pita bread from the in-store cafe. Where was the union for this worker? Where was the organized solidarity to prevent incidents such as this from becoming standard behavior at Borders Incorporated?

On the same day that the Chicago contract was signed, the UFCW launched a campaign calling for Borders management act neutrally when they are approached with a request for union recognition, and to drop the union-busting law firm of Jackson, Lewis, Schnitzler and Krupman, which was brought on board to fight the IWW effort in Philadelphia and has been Borders' attorneys ever since. Needless to say, Borders declined to agree to these demands. While this strategy seems absurd to a union like ours which believes that the working class and the employing class have nothing in common, UFCW is paying for ads in national magazines to beg for crumbs.

It stands to reason that UFCW should expect Borders to be neutral while they organize, since the UFCW has remained more or less neutral when Borders attacks its workers.

Faith group backs boycott

Ann Arbor's Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice has cancelled a long-standing program through which it encouraged its 1,200 members to buy books at Borders Books on a specified day in exchange for a contribution of a percentage of sales. They are now working with an independent bookseller. The ICPJ raised $736 at its last Borders Benefit Day, representing nearly $5,000 in book sales. But the Council has advised Borders that they "cannot, in good conscience, participate in Borders Benefit Days this year," explaining that they support workers' right to receive a living wage, and to form a union to defend their interests free from management coercion.

Gay unionists conference

Canada's first-ever Solidarity and Pride Conference for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual unionists was convened by the Canadian Labour Congress in Ottawa Oct. 15-17th.

More than 300 union activists participated in a series of workshops on workplace issues, current legal battles, queer union history and negotiating benefits, along with performances.

Historian Allan Berube' presented a slideshow on the history of the Marine Cooks and Stewards Union from the Depression era to the cold war, titled "No Red-Baiting! No Race-Baiting! No Queen Baiting!"

Participants expressed interest in continuing the conferences, perhaps as an annual event, and some suggested they should seek the authority to submit motions for consideration at CLC conferences.

Bosses Attack Workers Comp

In the kitchen of a St. Louis restaurant, new workers watch a video on workplace safety, which stresses workers' responsibility for preventing accidents. Actually, Missouri's workers compensation law does not assess responsibility for workplace injuries. The video is part of a concerted effort by restaurant owners to discourage workers from filing compensation claims.

Another boss informed employees that the workers compenmsation program does not exist.

The restaurant industry began its disinformationc ampaign against workers compensation when the legislature "reformed" the system in 1993, slashing benefits by 34 percent. Emboldened by this victory, the bosses pushed through futher cuts in 1994-95, and got the state to establish an insurance company to cover bosses with safety records so bad that they could not buy workers compensation policies in the open market. While the Missouri legislature says it can't afford to properly fund welfare, public schools, or treatment programs for the mentally ill, but they have no problem finding the money to subsidize irresponsible bosses!

After savaging workers compensation, the restaurant industry launched its campaign of disinformation, telling workers that if they were in any way at fault in an accident they were not entitled to workers compensation – a bald-faced lie. But without unions in the industry, many workers fall for this propaganda, enabling the bosses to cut their insurance premiums even further.

— Robert Rice

NYC Waiters Win $1.1 Million

The largest restaurant in New York City's Chinatown has agreed to pay $1.1 million to 58 workers who had been cheated out of tips and wages. Jing Fong restaurant illegally controlled the distribution of tips and withheld some of them.

Some waiters and busboys said they were paid as little as $65 to $100 a week for working 60 or more hours – a workweek that should have earned them $213 a week at the minimum wage, plus overtime and tips. Waiter Sheng Gang Deng was fired when he complained publicly to managers in 1995.

Under the settlement, Deng will be rehired and the restaurant will pay workers in installments over the next 32 months.

Mumia Abu-Jamal Tribunal

The Philadelphia GMB is among the endorsers of the Dec. 6 Peoples' International Tribunal for Justice for Mumia Abu-Jamal aimed at exposing the broader pattern of injustice which Mumia's case represents. The Tribunal will convene at 11 a.m. at the Blue Horizon, 1314 N. Broad St., Philadelphia. For information phone 215/476-8812, or email Mumia@aol.com.

Cat workers win quickie strike

Workers at Caterpillar's Mossville engine production facility struck November 7, when managers refused to discuss workers' concerns over work schedules, the number of hours to be worked, and overtime determination with union representatives. Cat workers have been working without a contract since the UAW abandoned a national Unfair Labor Practices strike two years ago.

As the strike began spreading through the complex, and workers in other plants expressed interest in joining in, Caterpillar management quckly backed down, promising to meet with union representatives and pledging that there would be no retribution to the strikers. The strike lasted less than two full days.

Ontario teachers demand a say

The two-week-long "illegal" strike by 125,000 teachers in Ontario in November was most importantly about the state's attempt to dictate education policy and systematically silence any opposition.

Education workers oppose the "Education Quality Improvement Act" in large part for its "Henry VIII" clause that any regulation dictated by the Education Minister would overrule any previous "democratic" law of the parliament. The law would also allow replacing teachers with unlicensed personnel, eliminate preparatory time, and slash millions in funding. Ontario Premier Mike Harris attempted to pass the law through premature "closure" of debate.

After two weeks on strike, even those who were initally non-suppportive of the teachers began to come around. But divisions among the teachers' unions resulted in unions throwing in the towel – ordering a return to work without winning any concessions "for the good of the students."

At a meeting in Toronto many strikers demanded a vote on the decision. The union replied they didn't have the money to organize a vote. Teachers came forward throwing tens and twenties on the platform. Clearly there was sentiment to continue the fight, but the union leadership had decided enough was enough.

General Strike in Windsor

Unions, community groups and social activists closed Windsor, a city in southwestern Ontario, October 17. Ninety percent of workplaces were effectively shut down as people exercised their right to protest against the Harris government agenda of public sector cuts. Workers from every sector took to the streets to send a message to the Tories. Thousands of teachers marched and stood on picket lines beside auto, postal, construction workers and teamsters, defying the employers' threats of financial penalties against themselves and their unions.

Public transit was shut down, the municipal government was closed, guards from the local jail walked off their jobs, no mail was delivered, Big 3 auto makers lost $millions in production, and the Windsor Casino which is owned by the Ontario government and generates $1.5 million in profit per day, was closed for 12 hours.

Downtown Windsor was desolate until the workers came marching in, reclaiming their community. The protesters chanted "Ontario, yours to recover," adapting the government tourist bureau slogan "Ontario, yours to discover."

When General Motors of Canada threatened to fine workers who joined the action, the Canadian Auto Workers said such fines would be met by strike action at every GM plant.

NEEDED: ONE BIG UNION

Hyundai union-busting

A Nov. 10 decision by the Tijuana Labor Board has overturned the results of an election in which workers at the Han Young maquiladora factory, which manufactures parts for Hyundai, voted for union representation. Enrique Hernandez, coordinator of Union de Defensa Laboral Comunitaria, which has been assisting the workers, termed the board's ruling a "ridiculous explanation for a travesty of justice."

The decision claims that the independent Union of Metal, Steel, Iron and Allied Workers (STIMAHCS, affiliated to the independent FAT federation) can not legally represent the workers because they make auto parts and therefore cannot be represented by a union of metal workers. Further, while STIMAHCS has been registered as a national industrial union for many years, the labor board says that it is not.

The board also suggests that a wave of firings of union supporters since the election (Mexican law requires workers to declare their vote in front of management – see report last issue) may have overcome the union's majority support.

Despite seemingly strong labor laws, Mexico's labor boards routinely uphold management actions and protect government-affiliated unions' sweetheart deals with the bosses. Indeed, the first time Han Young workers learned they were in a "union" was when a stranger appeared in the midst of a wildcat strike, identifying himself to workers as their union representative and saying workers were lucky to be earning twice Mexico's minimum wage, which is about 41 cents an hour. Infuriated, the workers began pelting the man with their leather welders' gloves, driving him from the plant.

The Support Committee for Maquiladora Workers in cooperation with Campaign for Labor Rights is coordinating a boycott of Hyundai Motors that has involved demonstrations in over 25 cities nationwide. Members and friends of the Chicago General Membership Branch of the IWW picketed a Hyundai dealer last month in support of the Tijuana workers.

Boycott Hyundai bumper stickers are available for $1 each or $6 for 10 (add $2.50 per order shipping) from: Labor/Community Alliance, POB 5077, Fresno CA 93755

Thugs Hired to Smash Union

Workers at a Hyndai contractor in South Korea are engaged in a desparate struggle to maintain their union in the face of continual attacks by gangsters hired by Korea-Fukoku management. Korea-Fukoku produces damper pulleys and windshield wipers for Hyundai Motors. It is located in Banwol Industrial Complex of Ansan City. The company is controlled by Fukoku Japan, which in turn is controlled by a Mr. Kawamato.

The Fukoku Trade Union, established in 1988, represents most of the plant's 200 production workers. The union has been one of the most active members of the Korean Metalworkers Federation in southern Kyonggi region, the home to many small to medium metal industry enterprises.

In July 1996 management began a campaign to destroy the union, refusing to negotiate a new collective bargaining agreement and stepping up repression of the union. Various welfare facilities and benefits were withdrawn, including the sudden closure of the workers' dormitory.

Management has increased work speed. Workers are prohibited from speaking to other workers during work. Workers going to toilet during work are closely monitored in order to control the free movement and 'waste' of production time.

In flagrant violation of the contract and the labour law, management arbitrarily transferred active unionists to other sections, changed the pay rate for mandatory night shifts, and shuffled around the weekly days off.

The union conducted sit-in protests, rallies, picketing, and every kind of means to pressure management to refrain from its anti-union actions and to return to the negotiating table. In response, management began to mobilise hired thugs to physically crack down on union activists and to terrorize ordinary members.

Physical violence against unionists has become Fukoku management's standard means of responding to industrial disputes. Known criminals and thugs have been hired to attack the union and unionists. These thugs raided union meetings, protest rallies and picket lines and physically brutalized active unionists to terrorize the ordinary union members.

These thugs were later hired permanently as 'security guards' to engage in constant surveillance and harassment of unionists. They have physically stopped union leaders and rank-and-file members from entering the union office. Many union members have been taken off production, and upon reporting for work are herded into a separate room where they are confined under constant watch. These attacks have driven some 70 unionists from the plant, creating vacancies that were filled by the thugs, their coterie and other temporary workers.

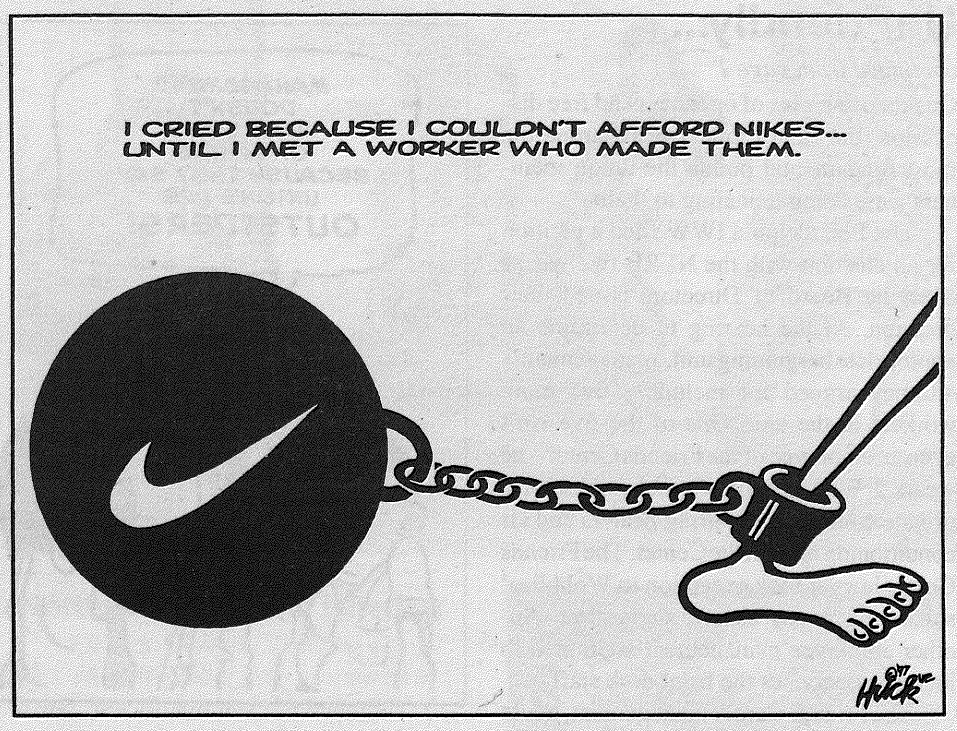
In April 1997, the Ministry of Labor placed the company under special supervision. The company was ordered to withdraw the "security guards," pay up unpaid backwages and to comply with a total of 17 orders. However, Fukoku management continues to refuse compliance. Instead, they issued notice of dismissal against 15 key union leaders, and dealt out disciplinary measures against some 100 workers, ranging from pay cuts to exclusion from work.

The company-hired corps of ex-convicts work as both "security guards" and production workers. These thugs are organised as the "Seung Hwa Company." When the nature of Seung Hwa Company was exposed in August 1997, the thugs simply registered under a new name, "Ace Personnel Management Company."

The thugs are working as line workers in damper pulley production and have been given the authority to hire daily contract workers. This is a systematic effort to isolate the union by keeping new employees under the thugs' strict control.

The union is demanding that Fukoku recognize its right to exist and represent its members. It calls on management to comply with Korean labor laws, to remove its thugs from the plant, to pay overdue backwages, and to reinstate unjustly dismissed workers. Finally, the union is calling for opening negotiations for a new contract.

Letters supporting the union can be faxed to Fukoku headquarter in Japan (+81-48-776-0609), support message can be sent to the union (+82-331-45-0144).



NIKE Sweatshop Audit Revealed

Nike hired the accounting firm Ernst & Young to audit of labor and environmental conditions inside its subcontractors' factories in Vietnam to see if the factories complied with Nike's corporate code of conduct. This secret report was recently leaked to the Transnational Resource & Action Center. While Ernst & Young declares that Nike is in compliance with its own code of conduct, it documents a series of hazardous and unjust working conditions inside the plant, including worker exposure to hazardous chemicals.

TRAC's own report documents much more serious conditions. TRAC researcher Dara O'Rourke visited the same plants "audited" by Ernst & Young and found that workers had never been told that they were working with toxic chemicals. "These workers were working long hours for little pay in unsafe conditions, often without protective equipment and with little or no training about other potential hazards."

Although Nike asserts it has solved the problems reported by E&Y, O'Rourke was in the factory in June, six months after the audit was done, and saw very dangerous conditions continuing. He also spoke with workers in October who reported that a number of the problems persist.

Brazil: Unions challenge austerity

Thousands of Brazilians took to the streets Nov. 12 in Brasilia to protest new austerity measures. According to the United Workers' Confederation (CUT), at least 3,000 vehicles joined the protest convoy and as many workers marched through the streets of the capital. The austerity program includes a 10 percent rise in income tax and staff cuts in the civil service.

Garment workers poisoned in El Salvador

Over 100 workers in a Salvadoran sweatshop were poisoned by an unknown substance in mid-November. Workers suspect the drinking water, which is stored in old paint barrels.

Many workers were injured and three remained hospitalized for over three days after the poisioning.

Since an anti-sweatshop campaign began in 1995, wages and benifits have nominally improved in El Salvador but working conditions and rates of union recognition have remained low.

Protests may be faxed to the Salvadoran Labor Ministry at 011-503-245-3070 and the White House Apparel Industry Partnership c/o Liz Clairborne 201-295-7803.

— Committee In Solidarity with the People of El Salvador

French truckers strike

French truckers struck for better pay and conditions late on the night of Nov. 2. To make their point, they blocked scores of highways – letting private motorists pass while blocking commercial traffic. Last year the truckers struck for 12 days, paralyzing France's transportation system and serving notice on the politicians that the workers' interests can not be totally ignored.

The CFDT – largest of the three striking unions – settled Nov. 7, agreeing to modest pay hikes. Other unions denounced the pact as an "accord of mischief makers and thieves," but the last of the roadblocks came down on the 8th.

Indigenous people call boycott of 2000 Olympics

The Nyungah Circle of Elders in Australia has declared a boycott and "time of mourning" for the Olympic Games to be held in Sydney, Australia in the year 2000.

"[W]e ask all Athletes planning to celebrate and participate in the Olympic Games...We ask you not to run in the Olympics over our Dead Ancestors who were massacred out through all the generations from the Beginning of the Invasion 200 years ago until now," their statement read.

Slaves denied compensation

A German court has denied a group of Holocaust survivors compensation for their stolen labour in slave/death camps during the second world war.

The workers say they will not be liberated until they also win back wages in addition to the compensation for imprisonment they already received. The survivors brought evidence that the munitions factory bosses profitted from their labor.

Sex work organizer murdered

In an assassination typical of death squads, sex work organizer "La Conchita" was shot dead by men in a white pick-up truck 30 meters from the doorstep of the HIV/AIDS organization he worked with.

The murder follows police threats against Conchita and his identification of other workers' bodies who he suspected were murdered by police. Protest to Guatemalan President Alvaro Arzu fax 011.502. 221.4537 or e-mail AlvaroArzu@guate.net.

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UnFriendly...

continued from page 1

Quaker principles of openness and free discussion, the Board totally disregarded the most fundamental points the union members were communicating to them.

The Philadelphia IWW filed a petition for an election with the NLRB two weeks after the Board of Directors issued their decision. At the hearing to determine an appropriate bargaining unit, management's attorney argued for including five more workers in the unit. One of the five isn't even an employee of the Friends Center – he wears a Willard uniform and works for a private contractor repairing heaters and air conditioning units at the Center. The Friends Center lawyer took exception to Wobblies' snickering at his absurd suggestion. Another employee management attempted to include supervises the front desk staff.

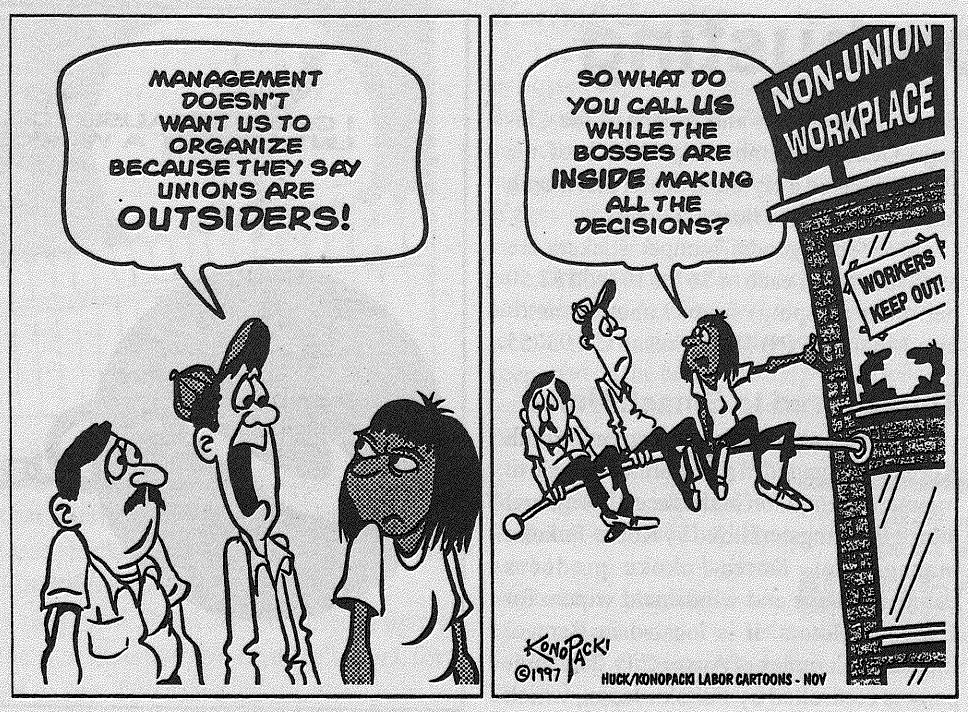
The Friends Center management, while claiming to be driven by a mission of conscience, has chosen to take full advantage of American anti-labor laws. They stubbornly insisted that we include workers into the unit who do completely different work and have clearly indicated that they have no desire to join the union. These workers share no community of interest with the evening and weekend staffers, and should not be forced to choose to either join the union or stand in the way of their co-workers who want to organize.

Having no faith in the NLRB's willingness to help us keep our unit intact, we tried for many hours to negotiate a settlement. The IWW and management decided on an unusual compromise: if the union can get five authorization cards (one more than the number of part-time front desk staffers) by mid-December, the Center would voluntarily recognize the entire unit management proposed, minus the private contractor.

The front desk staffers, joined by other Wobblies, have leafleted gatherings at the Friends Center to encourage support for voluntary recognition of their union. More than 700 fliers have been distributed in the past week generating an overwhelmingly supportive response. The Philadelphia Monthly Meeting called a "Threshing Session" which called for their representatives on the Board of Directors to reconsider their position. Dozens of supporters wearing bright red IWW buttons attended a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the American Friends Service Committee's winning of the Nobel Peace Prize. Quakers and progressives in Philadelphia and around the country have expressed their solidarity by calling the Friends Center.

Your help in our effort to win recognition is appreciated. We're asking that the Friends Center Corporation voluntarily recognize the union of the four evening and weekend front desk staffers and that they stop trying to include workers in the unit who have clearly expressed that they have no interest in organizing. Contact John Blanchard, Chairman of the Board, and Peter Rittenhouse, Executive Director of the Friends Center, by writing Friends Center Corporation 15th & Cherry Streets, Phila. PA 19102, fax: 215/241-7028, e-mail: fco@afsc.org. For more information on the campaign, call 215/724-1925 or e-mail phillyiww@iww.org.

— Alexis Buss



Free Peltier Actions

Ever since a conference for Peltier support organizers held in Tulsa in June, which two Wobblies from Tacoma attended, Tacoma Wobs have been working to build support for possible congressional hearings on Leonard Peltier's case. First we organized a potluck and video showing at Daybreak Star which drew in around 70 people. Then we helped with two rallies, one in Tacoma and one in Seattle. Then we went to work on Leonard Peltier weekend, which included a rally in Olympia, which drew about 100 people, and an evening event October 10th which drew nearly 200.

The next day a Caravan for Justice started in Olympia, picking up more cars in Tacoma and Seattle. The 40-car caravan crossed lake Washington for a rally at the office of racist Senator Slade Gorton to protest the anti-native riders that he tried to get through congress. Then the caravan made its way up to the Lummi Nation. The same day a Run for Justice, which included one Wobbly's children, started out from the Lummi Nation. The run was held in defiance of the state of Washington, which threw every roadblock in its way that it could.

After spending the evening at the Lummi school, the runners made their way to a park in Blaine, Washington, where they met up with the caravan and others for a march on the U.S./Canadian border. A border rally was joined by a caravan from Canada. Speakers included many natives from coastal tribes, a native speaker from Alaska, one from the Blackfoot Nation in Montana, and a Mohawk speaker from Oklahoma. Also speaking were veteran union and civil rights activist Don Alexander, Greg Jackson from Black Autonomy, and two Wobblies – Jessica Bilow from the Puget Sound GMB and myself. Two Tacoma Wobs, Juan Velasquez and Ron Eagle Horse, put a lot of work into building the events but were unable to attend because they work in the fishing industry and were out at sea at the time.

These events were part of the ongoing campaign of the Northwest Leonard Peltier Support Network, which has held 37 rallies in the last four years. A number of Wobblies have helped in this campaign. There are many who will try to keep the hearings from happening, and so we have been doing all that we can to build support for them. Please write letters in support of congressional hearings into the events on Pine Ridge and the case of Leonard Peltier to: Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell, Chair, Senate Indian Affairs Committee, Hart Senate Building, SH #838, Washington DC 20510.

— Arthur J. Miller

Picket disrupts boss's party

Seattle Wobs joined a picket of Olympic Tug & Barge Oct. 14, disrupting a party to send off a new barge built by non-union labor. Olympic has been a target for Longshore organizers for quite some time, but refuses to deal with the union. It hires workers through temporary agencies, rather than through the hiring halls.

Labor Economics

Real World Micro (6th edition, 1996), Randy Albelda, et. al., eds. Dollars and Sense (1 Summer St., Somerville MA 02143)

This collection of short, left-wing articles on various micro-economic issues is a perfect critical introduction to how capitalism does not work, but it falls short of this unionist's expectation for sharper tools for bargaining and direct action.

Dollars and Sense magazine – from which these essays are excerpted – reflects a common Wobbly frustration that the broad anti-capitalist movement is full of people who insist on separating the walking from the talking and vice versa. Still, *Real World Micro*'s clearly stated analysis of how our wages – including social wages like benefits – are being cut back are useful in focusing on what is dear to our (in)ability to live life outside of work. Capitalism is totalitarian (and this may not be news to us), but precisely how it oppresses us matters greatly to our everday struggles and perceptions.

Book Review

For instance, the details of "repetitive stress injuries" say a lot about the inhumanities of wage slavery and how basic our demand is for an industrial democracy in which we are truly free to live in good health. Sadly, *Real World Micro* does not illuminate the useful lessons of many victorious struggles but rather stops at the articulation of the problems.

A worker's use of *Real World Micro* may optimally be to frame discussions of economic issues and how our own perspectives offer unique insights into both how terrible our situation is and how different we imagine they could be. If *Real World Micro* helps us along a way of overthrowing this system it will have done its job well.

A valuable few articles in *Real World Micro* begin with this assumption of working-class struggle, and when they do the discussion is fascinating – for example on the topic of how workers may impliment non-exploitative non-profit purposes of production in some industrial co-operatives. Another essay approaches the same issue more cynically, by considering how piecards and 'friendly' capitalists steal portions of our wages to invest in the stock market while promising us "financial security."

Real World Micro reminds me of the folk singer ani difranco's line "Every tool is a weapon if you hold it just right." And like ani difranco who collaborated in music with Fellow Worker U. Utah Phillips, *Dollars and Sense* is on our side.

— Chris Vance

Winning the right to strike...

continued from page 5

moment's retreat into business unionism.

Unions today must win the right to strike by nullifying the anti-labor laws and redressing the balance of economic forces. We must learn from the employers. Their method is to divide and conquer by bringing their concentrated economic, legal, and police power to bear on separate groups of workers. They begin with the more vulnerable sectors of the working class: African Americans, Latinos, women, youth, the unskilled, the unorganized, and the unemployed. When they take on the unions, they try to limit the conflict to one bargaining unit at a time, although behind that employer stands the corporate empire of which it is part and behind that the employing class as a whole and the government that serves it.

The unions must overcome the divisions the employers exploit by organizing the unorganized, starting from the current base of industrial, government and skilled workers and reaching out to workers in the South, service workers, the unskilled, Black and Latino workers, women workers, youth, and the unemployed. We must rebuild the labor movement from the ground up, with a strong presence on the shop and office floors and active democracy in the union halls. And we must bring the power of all the unions and all the workers to bear in any struggle, making a reality of the principle, an injury to one is an injury to all.

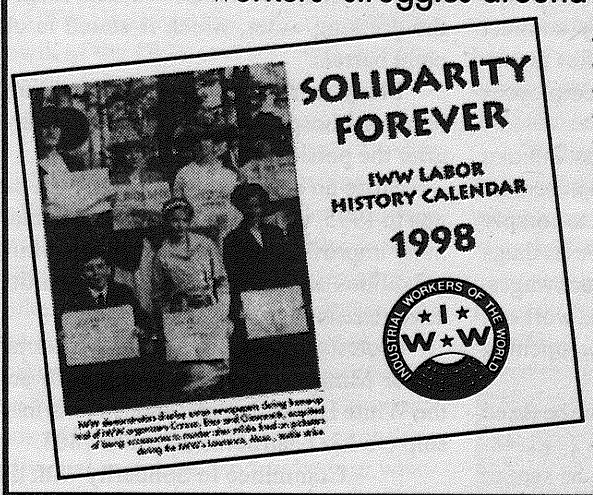
The right to strike will be won first of all on the picket lines and in the streets. The bosses will not give up their power voluntarily. Workers will win their rights only by exercising their power. The labor movement must free itself from the illusion that it can overcome unjust laws by obeying them.

So long as the employers and the government can keep the unions fighting bargaining unit by bargaining unit and obeying the anti-labor laws and injunctions, they can continue to inflict defeats which rob us of the public support we would need to repeal the laws and end the injunctions. The unions will repeal Taft-Hartley and Landrum-Griffin and end injunctions only by making them unenforceable.

Every wage slave needs one...

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1998 Labor History Calendar
14 photos, hundreds of dates. $8.50



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Heartland, Anne Feeney Live includes "War on the Workers"

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As Seen on No TV. Chris Chandler

It Takes A Lot of People. Tribute to Woody Guthrie by Larry Long & kids

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Greenfire. Dakota Sid, Travers Clifford

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Justice. Toshi Reagon

Out of Darkness. Tom Juravich

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Heartland, Anne Feeney Live

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Work Hazards and Industrial Conflict, was $10, now $6

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The basic introduction to the structure and methods of the Industrial Workers of the World. $2

The General Strike.
Ralph Chaplin's musical version of the IWW Preamble notes "without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn." He develops that idea in this essay. $2

Labor Law for the Rank & Filer. by Staughton Lynd.
Revised and updated, this classic self-help manual is subtitled: "building solidarity while staying clear of the law." $7

IWW Organizing Manual (2nd Ed)
A guide to building the IWW on the job. $5

Bread & Roses, $2
British IWW magazine #1 Lead story: Five More Years of Hard Labour?

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Radical Thought

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A short history of the Building Worker Group; analysis of a militant labor struggle in the U.K. in 1996. $2.50

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Mask of Democracy: Labor Suppression in Mexico. by Dan LaBotz.
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IWW artist's poetic take on life today. $4

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Memorabilia from the National Museum of Labor History, London – badges, banners, buttons, scuplture, paintings, etc. from the British labor movement. $12

Images of Labor. edited by Moe Foner
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Education for Struggle: American Labor Colleges of the 1920s & 1930s by Richard J. Attelbaugh
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Schooling for "Good Rebels": Socialist Education for Children in the United States, 1900-1920 by Kenneth Teitelbaum
Explores the weekend schools American socialists organized to teach children about social justice. $20 (published at $44.95)

Art for the Masses: A Radical Magazine and its Graphics, 1911-1917 by Rebecca Zurier
An innovative revolutionary magazine that showcased artwork by Robert Minor, Art Young and Pablo Picasso to name a few. 150 illustrations, $10

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Woodie Guthrie's songbook for little kids. Hardcover, $10.

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Fictionalized biography of Joe Murphy, who was an IWW member between 1919 and 1924. $12

Video Documentary
Older = Bolder: Anarchist Elders, by Zimya Toms-Trend. 28-minutes; veteran Wobblies reflect on their struggles and ideas. VHS, $20.00

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T-SHIRTS

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IWW "Wings" 3" wide bullion pin, IWW Globe between sabots. $10. Zetamax, POB 8882, Baltimore MD 21224.

Workers' Guide to Organizing $4.50. **Guide to Direct Action** $4.50; both $8.25. Lehigh Valley GMB, POB 4133, Bethlehem PA 18018.

Collective Bargaining Manual $2.50. New York GMB, RD 1 Box 158-B, Hartwick NY 13348

Out of the Depths (Ludlow Massacre) $11.95; **Introduction to the U.S.: An Autonomist Political History** by Noel Ignatiev. $7. P & L Printing, 2298 Clay St., Denver CO 80211

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The Wobbly

News from IU 330-Construction Workers

330 Wobblies fight the Boss in Butte

The ASiMi construction project in Butte, MT, started about a year ago. They started the job about 4 months late. So when they started to get down to some real serious hiring they were already 4 months behind schedule. So, whenever the owners start to hassle the contractors as to why they are behind, the contractors naturally find an easy excuse by blaming labor.

Another reason for the poor start is the construction boom in the Pacific Northwest the last few years. The general contractor, Foster-Wheeler (F-W) came into this area with the idea that Butte had been in a economic slump for 12 years and people would do just about anything for a job. But F-W also had to depend on tramp electricians because Butte Electricians local could only furnish a fraction of the personnel they needed.

The Butte wage-scale is about $6 per hour, much lower than in other areas, so you can see why they had trouble manning the job up. But a lot of our traveling brothers said they would come up to Butte to give us a hand and try to get some half-ass good working conditions on the job. Some good union brothers and sisters, some of the finest electrician wiremen in the country, came to Butte – and for that I thank them.

The tramp Electricians were here all summer and we all had a good time, while off the job. But Foster-Wheeler constantly tried to fuck the job up by not furnishing the necessary tools to do the job right, not getting the material to do the job, providing out-of-date blueprints without the revisions, etc.

Tired of the shitty conditions, the tramps decided they had better start looking for a good winter job. With the tramps leaving and a local labor shortage, F-W feared they might be forced to raise the wage scale. F-W needed 450 electricians on the job, but by Labor-Day I don't think there were 200.

So F-W sent word around the country for electricians and still couldn't get any. With a construction boom on, Butte's low scale and who-wants-to-be-in-Butte-for-the-winter, Foster-Wheeler had problems getting qualified people to come here.

All this time F-W kept getting further behind schedule, blaming the men for all F-W's fuck-up's and saying "no way in hell they would pay us one more dime"!

We believe F-W really wanted a wobble (Editors note: that's a construction term for a wildcat strike) so they could go to ASiMi and blame the workers for F-W's incompetence. And believe me, we really wanted to give them the biggest wobble they have ever seen, but we had meetings and decided we weren't going to play their game. In true Wobbly fashion "there's more than one way to skin a cat"! A little direct action goes a long way!

Anyway, they sent word to Canada for electricians. After the American Electricians left town about the end of August the Canadians came. It's been pretty slim years lately in Canada and many Canadians Electricians are anxious to work. F-W told them there was a building boom going on all across the U.S. and the Americans needed their help in Montana. They were *not* told of the way Foster-Wheeler was treating the workers or the reason their American fellow workers had drug-up. They were never told about the shitty conditions, lousy pay, the disrespect that Foster-Wheeler had toward the workers. They were never told of the way Foster-Wheeler would go out of it's way to cause labor disputes between the crafts. The Canadians came here with the understanding they were just coming to help out their American brothers.

Now, we were led to believe the Canadians had been working on F-W jobs in Canada. The rumor went that the Canucks were F-W employees in Canada and were coming to save F-W's ass from those lazy American trouble-makers.

So, the Canucks were being lied to, or not being told the whole truth. And the Yanks believing the rumors – all the makings of a major clash when the Canucks arrive!

A lot of talk went around the Americans as to what to do about the Canadians. What local Wobs finally came up with is this: When they get here we will talk to them, explain the situation, and see "which side are you on"! Well, it didn't take long to find out! When the Canucks were educated as to the bull-shit this job had, they knew exactly, to-the-man, which side they were on. They even went so far as to offer to turn around and head straight back to Canada!

Once the Americans realized the Canucks didn't come here to fuck us but to make a living, true solidarity came into play. The Canadians hated F-W just as much as we did.

When the Canucks were brought here it was on the conditions they work for F-W only. It is stamped right on their visas "This job only". If they quit, get laid-off, or fired they go straight back to Canada. So they were stuck. That's one reason the yanks didn't push for them to quit – after all, they are union brother and sisters and our fellow workers, *plus* they were on our side!

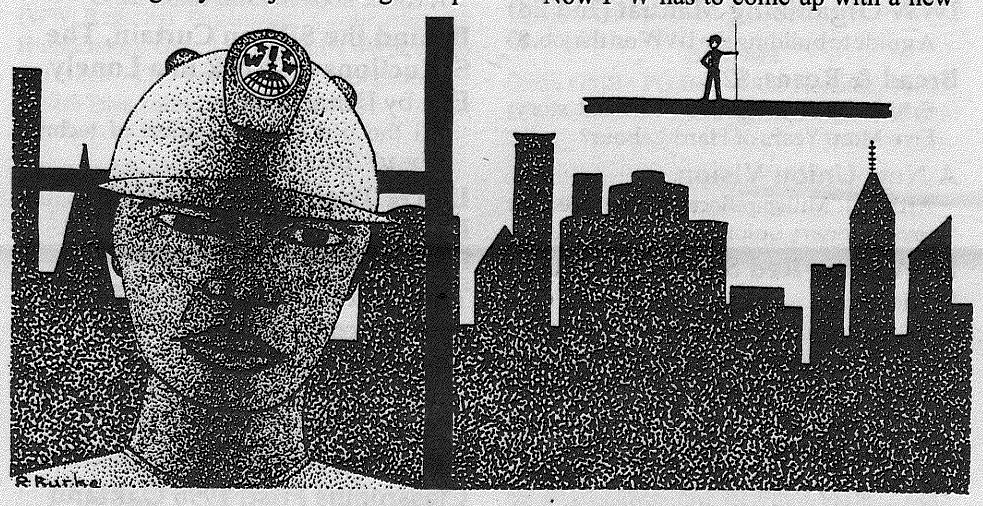
Now F-W has to come up with a new plan to cause problems on the job. So what F-W did was hire French-speaking electricians from Quebec. There are long-standing problems between the English and French Electricians unions, so when the Canadians found out about the Quebecois, the whole pissing-match started all over again!

So the IWW calls another meeting and the Canadians tell the history of the strife between the two groups. We decided to leave the damn union politics in Canada and adopt exactly the same tactic we did when the Canadians first came. Instead of attacking the French, we would take a wait-and-see attitude.

When the Quebecois arrived it was quite a show! Less than half spoke English. But we worked our way through it, with a combination of sign-language, pidgin English and a few well-chosen French cuss words (the first thing the yanks picked up), we're getting along fine. The yanks found out one good thing: our cousins to the north take pride in their work, are good *union* brothers & sisters, and are willing to stand side-by-side with their fellow workers.

Don't get me wrong, there are problems on the job. But not Canadian-American problems. Only Foster-Wheeler problems.

Butte Wobblies are meeting on a regular basis. At the last meeting 25 FWs showed up.



Five Ryder workers fired for solidarity

On Oct. 7, five women who had been school bus drivers for Ryder School Transportation in Nashua, NH, for many years, were summarily fired for walking off their jobs in solidarity with a fellow driver who they believed had been unfairly fired. The five appeared on the cover of the *Nashua Telegraph* the next day holding a handmade banner with the words, "If Carol doesn't Drive, We Don't Drive!" Also shown on the page were schoolchildren holding home-made signs calling for the reinstatement of 21-year award-winning veteran driver Carol Comeau, who had been fired the day before.

Other drivers said they would have gone on the picket line if they hadn't been afraid of losing their incomes, and community support for the drivers was intense. A sign at the entrance to the Ryder compound said "Now Hiring"; it was corrected to read "Now Firing."

Ryder's Nashua office recently adopted an inflexible policy that calls for "automatic termination" of any driver involved in a "preventable" accident. Comeau's bus had rear-ended a van last month. No one was hurt, and all witnesses spoke of her concern for the children in her charge. The woman who owned the van has called for Comeau's reinstatement, and dozens of children have written the School District and Ryder calling for the return of their beloved driver Carol. It was the first accident in her 21-year career.

The most troubling thing to me was the fact that none of the protests have mentioned the U-word – UNION. If the drivers had had a union worth its name, all the drivers would have gone out together and nobody would have been fired. I've written to the local paper, mentioning the fact that these workers need a strong union, and to the company, urging them to rehire all the drivers concerned.

It might help if the firings attracted some attention outside the Nashua area. Letters protesting the firings could be sent to: Ryder School Transportation, 223 Main Dunstable Road, Nashua NH 03062 603/ 883-0251

— Jim Giddings

On the Road?

Remember the IWW is the One Big Union. Get involved where-ever you are by contacting the local IU 330 delegate listed below or General Membership Branch listed on page 2 of this newspaper.

On-Line:

Portland IU 330 Branch maintains a World-Wide Web page at: www.teleport.com/~obu/330.html

IU 330 Delegates & Contacts:

IWW Delegates can sign up new members and take dues. If you are already a member consider becoming a delegate by contacting IWW Headquarters.

UK – For contacts ring the IWW on 0116-266-1835

USA

Asheville, NC: John 704-258-4879

Boston: Mark Dupont 508-584-9881

Butte: Dennis Georg 406-494-5837 e-mail dgeorg@aol.com

Cape May Courthouse, NJ: Richard Neill, POB 261, Cape May Courthouse NJ

Detroit: Jason 313-832-4074

W. Michigan/N. Indiana: Patrick Klocke (Vicksburg, MI) 616-649-1214

Portland: Ian 503-650-7187 (voice mail)

Seattle/Tacoma: Mark 206-935-9012 or Paul Harris 425-271-0518

St. Louis: Tom Madden 314-647-2093

Got news for 330s? Wanna be a contact? Call the Portland IWW Hot-line at 503-650-7187 and leave a message. We'll call you back! Or mail to POB 15005, Portland OR 97293 E-mail obu@teleport.com

WA pipefitters illegally fired

The U.S. Department of Labor has ruled that five of seven Hanford pipefitters who filed whistleblower reprisal complaints were illegally terminated because they disclosed serious safety and health violations at the government-owned, contractor-operated nuclear site in Washington state. The decision ordered reinstatement, backpay, and $10,000 in compensatory damages to each pipefitter. The decision came on the heels of a September 2 Labor Department ruling for a Hanford geologist who was terminated after he filed concerns about radiological contamination of groundwater.

The pipefitters were employees of Fluor Daniels Northwest, a subcontractor at the Hanford Site. The Labor Dept. concluded they were laid-off in retaliation for filing safety concerns and their refusal to perform unsafe work. The company was also ordered to notify employees that the complainant's safety concerns were protected, and that they utilized proper authority to stop work.

Be a Wobbly — Join the IWW...

Real Democracy! All policy decisions are made by referendum. The IWW has just one (modestly) paid officer, the General Secretary-Treasurer. The 7-member General Executive Board is elected annually by the entire membership. All officers may be recalled by referendum. IWW workplaces and branches make their own decisions about bargaining and strategy.

To Join mail this form with a check or money order for initiation and first month's dues to IWW, 103 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti MI 48197, or contact your local delegate. **Dues:** Monthly income under $1,000: $5 per month; Income $1,000-2,000: $10 monthly; Over $2,000: Dues $15. Initiation Fee is same as one month's dues. A low-income worker can join for as little as $10.00

__ I affirm that I am a worker, and that I am not an employer.
__ I agree to abide by the IWW constitution and regulations.
__ I will study its principles and make myself acquainted with its purposes.

Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State/Prov.: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Membership includes a subscription to the Industrial Worker